

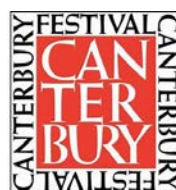
PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

END OF YEAR REPORT

A selection of case studies from 2022-2023



A year of collaborations and partnerships



Working in partnership to enrich our communities

Welcome to our Public and Community Engagement Report for the 2022-2023 academic year. We hope you enjoy reading this snapshot of public and community engagement from the last twelve months.

It has been another busy year for the University with the launch of our new Vision 2030, which was developed in consultation with key stakeholders in the local community. An important aspect of the new Vision is to use our position as an anchor institution, to work collaboratively to deliver positive developments and change, that benefit not only our local community but also deliver impact at a national and international level.

It has also been a year of celebration as we reached our Diamond Jubilee recognising 60 years of serving our community and acknowledging the positive impact of our engaged teaching, our innovative research, our key strategic partnerships and our dedication to widening access to higher education.

Over the past year, we have welcomed schools, businesses and members of the public onto campus through a wide range of events and we have gone out into the community to deliver workshops and services. We have continued to be proud sponsors of Canterbury Festival, Kent Women's Cricket, Canterbury and Medway Pride and Creative Folkestone.

Public engagement is at the heart of what we do and our doors are always open.

Professor Mike Weed,
Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise and Business Development)



Working Together to Drive Change



Representatives of the eight organisations signed up to One Medway Charter

Together with seven other organisations in Medway, the University signed an agreement - [One Medway Charter](#) - to drive social and economic change in the area, committing to working together to exploit opportunities and address challenges in priority areas.

With input from the people of Medway, an action plan guided by their priorities will look to create jobs, drive economic recovery through increased investment in the area, help our communities to flourish, support progression into vocational and higher education, enhance health and wellbeing and address the climate crisis locally.



We are proud to have been working together at Medway for 20 years to deliver opportunities to local people to become highly skilled and highly talented graduates to support the local economy. There's always more we can do and this agreement gives us a means of hearing directly from the people of Medway about what the next 20 years could look like.



The Universities at Medway



Bringing the Business Community Together Through Sports



£900

donated to Keep Talking Services



100%

satisfaction and positive contribution to participants' wellbeing



Keep Talking Services team at Vice Chancellor's Business Games

Organised by the University's [Enterprise and Engagement Department](#) and [Sport and Active Health team](#) the Vice Chancellor's Business Games returned for its second year, providing another opportunity for team work and collaboration for local businesses.

Bookings for the event raised money for [Keep Talking Services](#), a charity founded by one of the University's Mental Health Nursing graduates, which offers a vital telephone befriending service to combat social isolation and ensure the well-being of vulnerable members of the community.

100
participants
from **10**
local organisations



87%
created and consolidated
connections with
other organisations



“ I'm so proud to be part of the alumni family - the future is bright because I've got Canterbury Christ Church behind me every time.

We've made so many great connections and we're already arranging meetings and talking about how we could work together. It's amazing. ”

Alex Richardson, Chief Executive and founder, Keep Talking Services

Event Sponsors:



Support for Ukrainians in Canterbury



Canterbury 4 Ukraine representatives at the Business and Community Awards

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the University has pledged to [support displaced Ukrainians](#) living in Canterbury. As part of the community consortium, Canterbury 4 Ukraine, we have provided practical support such as language lessons for adults and Arts Council funded language and cultural activities for young Ukrainian children, hosted at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar school.

A subsequent partnership with Kent County Council has enabled us to continue to provide much needed language support for both professionals and vulnerable groups, to help integrate further into the local community.

Canterbury 4 Ukraine was recognised at the Business and Community Impact Awards, winning Community Partnership of the Year.

1000

hours of
language support



£16,000

funding secured
through KCC to continue
language support



500

professionals
trained



Knowledge Exchange Partnership Contributes to Innovation



Peter Fitzpatrick and Emma Potts from Greater Manchester Fire Service with Emma Barrowcliffe from CCCU at the Business and Community Awards

Emma worked with the small project team to help them to develop a two week education programme, delivered to six individuals referred by the Probation Service. [The Atlas Project: Supporting rehabilitation and behaviour change in adult firesetters](#) was nominated for the University's Business and Community Impact Awards, 'Innovation of the Year' Award. Carys won Unitemps Student of the Year Award for her research internship and produced an article for FIRE Magazine

Deliberate fire-setting costs approximately £1.45billion per year in England and Wales. Building on existing training and research, academic Emma Barrowcliffe and student intern Carys Graely, provided insight to aid the development of an innovative intervention to support and educate adults who have been involved in harmful or potentially harmful use of fire:

“ These outcomes can also translate into positive impacts for the wider community. For example, reducing recidivism and the number of deliberately ignited fires also reduces the resultant economic and human costs. ”

Dr. Emma Barrowcliffe,
Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychology

100

fire-services trained
by CCCU staff



Engaging Audiences Through Public Lectures



Comedian and Honorary Graduate, Jo Brand

This year we welcomed members of the public onto campus and online, to share knowledge, engage in debate and inspire new ideas. The University [Public Lecture Series](#) programme this year included comedian and Christ Church honorary doctor [Jo Brand](#)'s sell-out lecture 'Growing Old Gracelessly.'

The University also launched its successful [Medway Talks](#) delivered by academics at the Universities of Medway, whilst the [BH365 events](#), which included public lectures, exhibitions and concerts, continues to provide a platform for black voices and support anti-racism and allyship at the University.

1020

attendees to Public
Lecture Series 2022-2023



Celebrating Our Staff Volunteer School Governors



Staff volunteers at the summer celebration

School Governors play a vital role in enhancing the quality of education and shaping the future of young people in the region. As part of the School Governors' Charter, signed in 2021, we pledged to raise awareness and celebrate the impact of our staff who volunteer as school governors.

In June, the Vice Chancellor invited staff volunteers to thank them for their tireless commitment and contributions to the community.

The event provided an opportunity for school governors to connect and network with their peers, fostering collaboration and sharing best practices.

Students Making a Difference

Volunteering is an important way for Canterbury Christ Church students to give back to the local community, whilst developing their personal and professional skills.

Second year Public Health and Health Promotion student, Charlene Taylor, volunteered with two charities whilst she studied - Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) and Keep Talking Services. Charlene has since started working for PACT part and has using her degree knowledge, offered recommendations to both charities that resulted in operational changes and new projects to improve client services.

Charlene won the Special Recognition in Volunteering Award at the Student Awards in 2023. Her volunteering inspired her dissertation subject and a future career path.



Community volunteer, Charlene Taylor

3535



volunteering hours
logged in 2022-23

Championing Women in Sport with Kent Cricket



Kent Cricket's Women's Team

This year the University extended its partnership with Kent Cricket for another three years, as the Club's Women's Cricket Headline Partner.

One of the longest standing partnerships in women's cricket, Canterbury Christ Church University has featured on the front of Kent Women playing shirts for the past decade, including their first coloured kit in 2015.

Since then, Canterbury Christ Church has continued its enthusiastic support of women's cricket in Kent, overseeing multiple County Championship, Women's London Championship & T20 titles for Kent Women.

The University will also become the title sponsor of the newly-formed Kent Women's Premier League featuring multiple recreational clubs across the county, as well as providing Sports Scholarship opportunities for potential Kent cricketers of the future, male or female.

“We're delighted to extend our partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University for another three years.

Their support has played a big part in the success of Kent Women at both a first-team and pathway level for over a decade – something that we are both very proud of.

We look forward to continuing our work with the University to keep our women's talent pathway up there with the best in the country.

Andy Griffiths, Director of Partnerships
Kent Cricket

Public Contribute to Research Into Photography and Grief

The [How We Mourn Project](#) (HWM) is a collaboration between anthropologist Dr Maya Mayblin (University of Edinburgh) and photographer and senior lecturer in photography, Miranda Hutton (Canterbury Christ Church University), that explores the pervasive role of photographs in contemporary mourning practices in the UK and has involved two successful community engagement workshops.

Hosted at the Beane Museum in Canterbury, the first workshop invited members of the public to talk about significant photographs of loved ones who had died. Local charity, Pilgrims Hospices supported the workshop through promotion and by providing a bereavement counsellor to attend the workshop to offer more specialised support to those who needed it.

A second workshop focussed on the intersection between photographs and memorial tattoos. The public were invited to the University's photography studios to have portraits taken of memorial tattoos and significant visual representations. This workshop provided interesting data and insights for the research and served as a forum for participants to exchange experiences and discuss the role of the memorial tattoo in grief journeys.

The team presented their findings at a symposium at the University of Edinburgh entitled 'Photographs and Afterlives: new perspectives on death, mourning and photography' and are in the process of preparing for publication as an edited collection.

20+ 
workshop participants



Participant in the Mourning with Tattoos workshop

In the Beaney

Awkward, shy, we came
To a safe, welcoming space
To lay bare our hidden grief,
To lay down the weight
Of losing our loved ones.
Old faces, young faces,
We share names, so precious,
Clutch our photos to our hearts.
We tell our hurt, our stories which
Then weave into each other.
We bear witness to living with loss,
Our brokenness emerging as strength.

Poem written by a participant of the first public engagement workshop run by the How We Mourn Project in 2022

Inspiring Young People to Pursue Science



Pupils learning at the Community Lab

181 
Sessions delivered to
12 students from
schools

In 2022, the Community Lab at Discovery Park reopened its doors to budding scientists in east Kent. The award winning collaboration between the University, Discovery Park, Pfizer, The STEM Hub and York BioAnalytical, provides facilities and training to young people, introducing them to real-life career opportunities in science, technology and engineering.

Put on hold during Covid lockdown, the lab welcomed students and teachers back to experience exciting science lessons, linked to their curriculum, in an industrial standard laboratory. Each session introduces them to new areas of science and takes them on a journey from school to college or university, and onto world-leading businesses at science parks, such as Discovery Park.

Engaging the Public Through Arts and Culture



Lantern Parade, photo by Matt Wilson for Canterbury BID

The University Arts and Culture team supported the Canterbury Christmas Parade in December 2022, by providing two free family workshops at the Beaney on 5th November that attracted 40 young families, who then participated in the parade with lanterns they had created.

The University also sponsored and participated in the Medieval Pageant, which saw 10,000+ heritage site visits on the day.

£500 
grant from the
University's Small
Community Fund to the
Sunrise Festival

Connecting Small Business to Creative Technologies



**800** hours of business support provided

118 hours of events

100 businesses registered

Local school pupil taking part in Imaginary Worlds workshop

The Hi3 Network project provided freelancers, sole-traders and small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) free of charge access to creative industries technologies, business support and the opportunity to work collaboratively with university Researchers.

An example of one such collaboration was with Folkestone-based outreach company, [ootiboo](#) who aim to foster creative curiosity from an early age. Co-Founder and Creative Director, Angus Cameron worked with Film Production lecturer Dr. Nicholas Furze, together visiting local schools in areas of deprivation, including two Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools, to work with 50 students age 8-14 on designing 'imaginary worlds.'

Utilising Hi-3 technology, including green screens and supported by Christ Church Film Production students, the children produced 18 videos of these imaginary worlds. The process gave the children access to state-of-the-art technology that they otherwise would not have had access to, allowed them to step into creative roles of Producer, Actor, Director and Narrator and helped develop skills such as negotiation and teamwork.

“ Working with the Hi3 network on our My Imaginary Worlds project has enabled ootiboo to showcase the value of technology for creative education in schools and is already supporting the development of a range of exciting future projects. ”

Angus Cameron, Co-founder and Creative Director at ootiboo





University Plays Part in New Parkinson's Centre in Kent



Speech and Language Therapy staff, students and graduates at the new centre

This year, a team of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) lecturers, graduates, and students from the University have been involved in the setup of a world leading Parkinson's Centre for Integrated Therapy (PCIT) at the Kent MS Therapy Centre building in Canterbury.

Every hour, two people in the UK are diagnosed with Parkinson's - a disease set to nearly double by 2065, so the need for effective community-based treatment continues to grow. PCIT is a clinical, research and educational centre providing critical access to evidence-based, non-pharmacological treatments for Parkinson's in Kent.

Non-pharmacological therapies - such as Speech and Language Therapy - are a vital but often overlooked part of Parkinson's treatment. 100% of Parkinson's sufferers will develop a voice disorder, but most drug and surgical treatments have a negligible or negative impact. Voice therapies have achieved significant and sustained improvements in voice quality and after Physio, SLT has been the most requested therapy. The University team will provide one-to-one and group therapy sessions at the centre.

PCIT's innovative approach has drawn scientists and PhD students from around the world. As well as providing therapy, the team have the chance to be involved in exciting research projects being undertaken to develop future Parkinson's treatments for the local, national, and international community.

'Separately, educational opportunities are offered to train the next generation of healthcare practitioners and scientists in this integrated approach to non-drug management in Parkinson's disease'

David Wilkinson,
Director of the Parkinson's
Centre for Integrated
Therapy

University launches first fundraising campaign, Futures.



February 2023 saw the launch of [Futures](#), Canterbury Christ Church’s first fundraising initiative which aims to create opportunities and success for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and enhance their aspirations.

The initiative provides an opportunity for Christ Church alumni and local businesses and stakeholders to support students through financial donations or through their time and expertise, as part of the Futures mentoring programme. Through the generosity of supporters, the team have raised enough funds to offer three new flagship Futures Scholarships to students who would otherwise struggle with the cost of a university education.

Dayne Blake is the first recipient of The Hawthorn Scholarship, and Kristian Hricko and Louise Hattersley will both receive the Futures Aspire Scholarship.



3 students to receive
£5000
yearly throughout their studies



70
new Futures Partner volunteers

Celebrating our business and alumni community



This year we have celebrated both our Alumni community and our business partnerships, with two awards evenings: our Alumni Gala Dinner and the [Business and Community Impact Awards](#).

With 100+ guests, and a host of new awards, the Alumni Gala dinner was a celebration of the contributions our alumni make to both the University and the local community. Alumnus Stephen James won [Community Hero of the Year Award](#).

Building on the previous success of Evening on the Terrace, the Business and Community Impact Awards brought together connections from across the region and beyond, to celebrate innovation, outreach, partnerships and research.

Community Hero winner, Stephen James

Creating a Sustainable Future for All



Staff, students and members of the public at Sustainable Future event

Canterbury Christ Church University marked its commitment to sustainability with a day of events focused on social and environmental justice, welcoming staff, students and the wider community, to explore social and environmental justice with workshops, activities and speakers.

Simon Hood, Research Analyst at [Runnymede Trust](#) - the UK's leading independent race equality think tank - delivered a keynote speech that kicked off an event that covered a wide range of themes including: sustainable human development; geographical maps for social and environmental justice; religion, sustainability and the common good; sustainability and schools; and race and the environmental emergency.

With workshops and stalls throughout the day, and a student-led 'Anti-Fast Fashion' workshop, the day provided food for thought and inspiration for climate and equality activism. The event was delivered by the [Academy for Sustainable Futures](#), in partnership with [Christ Church Students' Union](#), professional service teams and the [Global Majority staff network](#).

“Unless we have a reasonable measure of equality between different people and communities; and unless there is a reasonable level of intergenerational equity, we are not going to be able to move forward on solving and addressing the environmental crisis which we know is such an important issue.”

Dr Stephen Scoffham, Reader in Sustainability and Education at the University,



1000

trees planted in Africa, through Students' Union partnership with Ecologi



If you are interested in finding out more about any of these case studies, would like to share a project or activity or would like to speak to us about public and community engagement, please get in touch.

E: publicengagement@canterbury.ac.uk

Find us on LinkedIn: [@Connect With Canterbury Christ Church University](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Connect-With-Canterbury-Christ-Church-University)