

## UNITED IN PRIDE

We were delighted to once again sponsor Pride Canterbury this year and take part in the celebrations across the city. This year, Pride Canterbury was bigger and better than ever, with a spectacular two-event celebrating diversity, equality and progress.

We have been a proud sponsor and supporter of Pride Canterbury since 2016. We have a vibrant LGBTQIA+ community at our University, and we're working hard to nurture a truly inclusive environment, where all identities are valued and respected. Being part of Pride Canterbury gives us a joyful opportunity to come together with our friends and neighbours and celebrate the entire LGBTQIA+ community.



## LIVING IN HISTORY

We were so excited to sponsor Canterbury's Medieval Pageant and Trail for a second year this summer. The Medieval Pageant and Trail is created by Canterbury BID and features a colourful parade through the city centre, followed by a trail of family events and medieval mayhem across the city of Canterbury. This year was the biggest ever with over 11,000 people attending the event.

On our campus, visitors could explore an Early Medieval living history display from Ost Centingas, which included a blacksmith forging arrowheads, leather and fibre crafts, and a flour mill, as well as weapons displays. Elsewhere on campus, children had the chance to create their own flags using heraldic medieval animals, and even visit our dragons in Becket Garden.



## A safer Canterbury

Working with Canterbury Safer Streets, a local strand of the Home Office's Safer Streets 4 fund, we are supporting Canterbury in becoming a safer city for everyone. Alongside helping Canterbury achieve a Purple Flag award for its 11th consecutive year, the University and Christ Church Students' Union have been able to support the project in commissioning cutting edge research, developing resources, and increasing safety initiatives in the city.

The project has led to the installation of new CCTV, a surge in the delivery of Best Bar None accreditation, and Zero Tolerance training to make our local establishments safer and taking an active stand against harassment in our city.

If you live in, work in or visit Canterbury city centre, you can download the SafeZone app on your smartphone to access support when you need it and be able to quickly report antisocial behaviour, incidents in the Canterbury district, light outages, fly tipping

and much more. Visit [canterbury.ac.uk/safety](https://canterbury.ac.uk/safety) to get the SafeZone app. For more information on Canterbury Safer Streets, go to [saferstreetscanterbury.com](https://saferstreetscanterbury.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](mailto:community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk)  
or t: 01227 925367

### University of Kent

e: [communityliaison@kent.ac.uk](mailto: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](https://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](mailto:envhealth@canterbury.gov.uk) or t: 01227 862202

### Parking Enforcement

To report a problem with parking, e: [parking.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk)

For an electronic version of the newsletter and further information, visit [canterbury.ac.uk/community](https://canterbury.ac.uk/community)

## SUPPORTING WOMEN'S CRICKET

We're delighted to have extended our 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, we have featured on the front of Kent Women playing shirts for the past decade, including the Horses' first ever coloured playing kit in 2015. Since then, we have continued our enthusiastic support of women's cricket in Kent, overseeing multiple County Championships, Women's London Championships and T20 titles for Kent Women.

We 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.



## Forget Open Days! Come to our Answers Day

If you're thinking about studying at university, you need to find the best place for you. Our Answers Days focus on providing you with answers to the questions that are most important to your personal journey. On one of our Answers Days, you can get a feel for the campus and our learning environment, chat to our staff and current students, find out about courses and module options, get advice from our student support teams, and discover the state-of-the-art facilities on offer, while finding out what this will all mean for YOU. Come along and get the answers you need!

### Our next Answers Days are:

**Sunday 1 October**  
10am-3pm, Canterbury campus

**Saturday 7 October**  
10am-3pm, Medway campus

**Saturday 11 November**  
10am-3pm, Canterbury campus

For full details and to book your Answers Day, go to [canterbury.ac.uk/answers](https://canterbury.ac.uk/answers)



# Community matters

Sept / 2023

Canterbury Christ Church University

## NUMBER 1 IN THE UK FOR GRADUATES IN EMPLOYMENT



The most recent Graduate Outcomes survey has revealed that Canterbury Christ Church University is the top university in the UK for graduates in employment.

The results show 94% of all our graduates were in work 15 months after finishing their course, which ranks the University first among large UK universities, compared to the national average of 87%.

The survey also shows we are first for UK based, full-time, first-degree graduates in employment or further study 15 months after completing their studies, and first for postgraduate students in work 15 months after finishing their course.

For over 60 years the University has supported Kent and Medway's economy, businesses, public services and communities by producing sought-after, talented graduates. We work hard to support our students' futures and aspirations by working directly with industry and embedding employability across our courses. These results not only highlight our graduates' individual success, but show our graduates are leading the way to help re-build and grow stronger in a post-covid world.

## Congratulations and farewell!

Huge congratulations to all our students who graduated this September! Many of our students go on to work in local schools, hospitals and businesses, and we're so proud of the positive impact they make in the community. Good luck to all our leavers in this next exciting stage of your careers.



Canterbury Christ Church University



# Celebrating local partnerships with international impacts

We honoured outstanding local organisations at our inaugural Business and Community Impact awards this summer, recognising the significant impact these partnerships are having on the region and the international community. The awards were presented at a special ceremony with 28 local businesses and organisations celebrating alongside University staff and invited guests.

## Our winners were:

- **Canterbury for Ukraine (Community Outreach Partner of the Year)** for their incredible relief work and support for displaced Ukrainians settling in Kent
- **Ootiboo (Innovation of the Year)** who have been inspiring children from areas of deprivation to use technology to follow their creative dreams
- **Evolution Water Services (Unitemps Partner of the Year)** who have been providing our students with vital industry experience
- **RiverOak Strategic Partners (Commercial Partner of the Year)** for supporting our students with their expertise and mentoring, as well as developing STEM skills training
- **Medway Community Healthcare, Blackthorn Trust, and the Health and Europe Centre (Research Initiative of the Year)**, for their work on the Diabetes and Wellbeing (DWELL) project, which is empowering people with diabetes to live better and have the tools to effectively manage their health and wellbeing.

We're very proud of the partnerships we have across the region – it is only through these collaborations that we are able to achieve so much for our students, our local community and the wider world.



# Vice-Chancellor honoured with OBE

Professor Rama Thirunamachandran DL, our Vice-Chancellor and Principal, has been awarded an OBE for services to Higher Education in The King's Birthday 2023 Honours List. The first British born Black and Ethnic Minority (BAME) Vice-Chancellor of a mainstream UK university, this honour coincides with Professor Thirunamachandran's ten-year anniversary as Vice-Chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University.

Professor Thirunamachandran has driven our University forward in a number of strategic areas, cementing us as an inclusive and civic university that works hard for the communities we serve, locally, regionally and beyond, with sustainability as a core focus.

Professor Thirunamachandran said: "I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this award. It is in large part a recognition of the hard work and significant achievements of Canterbury Christ Church University colleagues, students, communities and organisations over the past decade I have had the great privilege to work with. I am proud to share this honour with all those who have supported me throughout my career. It celebrates the key role of higher education in society and the economy."



# Improving health care experiences for people with learning disabilities

We have been working with the East Kent Mencap GOLD (Getting On with Learning Difficulties) project to train nursing students to support people with learning disabilities or autism to communicate and access health services.

Members of the East Kent Mencap GOLD group recently attended a hospital simulation training session at our Verena Holmes Building, where student nurses paired with individuals, initiated conversations, and undertook observations and assessments, including blood pressure, pulse, temperature and weight.

Through these interactions, adult and mental health nurses experience spending time with people with additional needs and gain a better understanding of how to communicate with people with a learning disability. This is a hugely valuable contribution to the student nurses' training, helping nurses deliver their practice with confidence and inclusivity, so that people with a learning disability are seen, valued, and listened to throughout their experience of healthcare.



# WELCOMING NEW NEIGHBOURS

We're excited to be welcoming new and returning students to study with us in September 2023. Each year our Good Neighbour Campaign is an ongoing effort shared between the University and local services to ensure our students are equipped with knowledge, kindness and respect when living in the local community. We provide welcome messages and events to ensure our students understand our expectations and their responsibilities when living in residential areas. We will be visiting areas that have a high student population in the autumn to deliver important information about managing their bins, accessing local support services, and getting involved with their local community.

Our students are respectful and kind neighbours, but in rare cases where there are issues, our Community Liaison Manager Josh is here to advise and support any students involved. We encourage local residents to get in touch with any 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.

To get in touch with the Community Liaison Manager, please contact Josh on 01227 925367 or by emailing [community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk)

## CELEBRATING OUR GOOD STUDENT NEIGHBOURS

If you have students living next door who are excellent neighbours, we would love for you to get in touch with us at [community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk)

### We want to hear about:

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



# Celebrating the arts with Canterbury Festival

We are proud to be the Partner and Principal Sponsor of Canterbury Festival for a 13th year. This much-anticipated showcase of the arts is back for 2023 and bigger than ever, featuring UK music legend Gabrielle, comedy from stand-up veteran Rich Hall, and the return of the spectacular Luxmuralis in Canterbury Cathedral, with their stunning new light show Renaissance. There will also be talks on history, science, travel, and the arts, exhibitions, creative workshops, kids shows and much more.

Explore the programme and get your tickets at [canterburyfestival.co.uk](http://canterburyfestival.co.uk)

# Canterbury Festival at Canterbury Christ Church University

We are thrilled to collaborate with Canterbury Festival on a number of events through the Festival. Highlights include:

**CANTERBURY GAMES**  
**Sunday 29 October 2pm – 5pm**  
Westgate Hall, Free, booking required

Experience the magic of Canterbury through the eyes of Canterbury Christ Church University's talented BA Games Design students! Immerse yourself in games that bring the rich history and charm of Canterbury to life. Discover the remarkable fusion of gaming and cultural heritage as you navigate through the virtual landscapes meticulously crafted by our budding games designers. Uncover hidden gems, embark on epic quests, and unravel the stories woven into the fabric of Canterbury.

**GLACIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE GHAIB**  
**18 Sept – 10 Nov Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm**  
Daphne Oram Creative Arts Building, Canterbury Christ Church University  
The Daphne Oram gallery is pleased to present a joint Pakistan-UK exhibition showcasing the precarity and beauty of living with large natural formations such as glaciers. Pak Khawateen, Painting Club, and Lumen Studios have together developed new experimental art works, including

photography, painting and sound, based upon shared research activities and an expedition to the Gilgit Baltistan region where they worked with indigenous communities and local experts to recognise the severe impact climate change has, and will continue to have, on indigenous people. Explore our exhibitions at [canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture](http://canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture)

**AN EVENING WITH APHRA BEHN**  
**Monday 30 October 7.30pm**

Anselm Studio 1  
Canterbury Christ Church University

Spy-turned-author Aphra Behn (1640–1689) is a Canterbury jewel. Born in Harbledown, little is known about her early life until she conquered the London stage with a succession of resoundingly successful plays, in collaboration with the greatest composers of the day. In her own words, Aphra Behn is brought to life by Miriam Dooley (actor, writer, director, and lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church), alongside some of the country's foremost Baroque specialist singers and instrumentalists. Her mortal remains lie in Westminster Abbey; this evening brings her extraordinary talent a little closer to home.

Find out more and book tickets at [canterburyfestival.co.uk](http://canterburyfestival.co.uk)



Portrait of Aphra Behn by Sir Peter Lely, ©Yale Center for British Art)

# APHRA WHO?

We are embarking on a year-long celebration of one of Canterbury's most important, and most forgotten, daughters. Aphra Behn (1640-1689) was the first professional woman writer in English. A former spy, and fantastically successful in the 1670s and 80s as a playwright, novelist, poet and translator from French, Aphra Behn has been forgotten by history, and we think it is time to change that.

Working in partnership with Aphra Behn expert Professor Elaine Hobby from Loughborough University, and local organisations including the Canterbury Commemoration Society, the A is for Aphra campaign, and the Aphra Behn Society of Canterbury, the year of celebrations will start with a launch event on our campus with music, pictures, and a talk exploring who Behn was and what she did. Keep an eye on [canterbury.ac.uk/events](http://canterbury.ac.uk/events)

Canterbury Festival will host two shows, planned together with the Aphra Behn Society of Canterbury, including The Masks of Aphra Behn, a one-woman show, and an Evening with Aphra Behn – go to [canterburyfestival.co.uk](http://canterburyfestival.co.uk) for more info and to book.

In November, as part of the University's contribution to the Being Human Festival, there will also be a special event exploring Aphra's poetry and beliefs. As the year continues, there will be walks, a production of a play by Behn, and An Aphra Behn exhibition in The Beaney House of Art and Knowledge, along with many other activities celebrating the inspirational Aphra and her connection to our wonderful city. Watch this space!

