A new Park Wood Student Hub opened its doors in mid-September.

It provides a new social and study area, with multi-purpose studios and rehearsal space. It also includes a new Students’ Union shop and brand new Woody’s bar and restaurant, serving modern international street food.

The hub is located just off Park Wood Road, near the student accommodation at Farthings Court and is open to the public.

**New Economics Building progresses**

Work is progressing at pace on the University’s new Economics Building situated in Park Wood.

The new three-storey building will ensure that the School of Economics can be located under one roof for the first time and will house improved social spaces, meeting rooms, teaching space and an IT suite. It will also co-locate the School alongside Kent Business School and the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science to create a ‘financial and business’ cluster in this area of the campus.

The School of Economics is scheduled to open for the start of the 2019-20 academic year.

**Kent Community Oasis Garden**

A new community garden has opened on the campus that is designed to become an outdoor space for staff, students and members of the local community to use for a range of activities. We’ll be featuring the garden in our next issue, but you can find out more at: https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/kentcog/

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**Kent sponsors Green Heritage Conference**

We were proud to sponsor Canterbury’s first Green Heritage Conference, held in the city at the start of October.

The conference featured best-selling author and BBC Gardener’s World presenter Nick Bailey, who spoke on the importance of green spaces within urban environments. Dr Karen Jones, of the School of History, and Dr Eirini Saratsi, of the School of Anthropology and Conservation, spoke on the history of green heritage and possible next steps for growing Canterbury’s green space.

The event was organised by Canterbury Connected Business Improvement District (BID) to help stimulate debate about improving the city’s green heritage and to generate ideas for the next Canterbury in Bloom.

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**Explore our campus on a virtual tour**

Virtual tours of the University’s Canterbury and Medway campuses are now available for visitors.

The tours showcase our campus accommodation, teaching and conference facilities, as well as our catering and social spaces, including the Gulbenkian and Kent Sport.

They offer a handy way for visitors to familiarise themselves with our campus before attending one of our many public events. Many of the campus facilities featured are open to the public all-year-round.

The virtual tours, produced by specialist digital agency Revolution Viewing, won the Digital Marketing category at the Association of College and University Housing Officers International Marketing Awards 2017. You can view them at www.kent.ac.uk/hospitality/virtual-tours/conference.
More than 60 community organisations were included in the consultation on our developing Framework Masterplan and our events attracted more than 350 local residents, students and staff.

The consultation took the form of a presentation to invited stakeholder representatives and four public exhibitions held at Canterbury’s Westgate Hall, Tyler Hill Memorial Hall, Blean Village Hall and the Darwin Conference Centre on campus.

The Masterplan is a requirement of Canterbury City Council’s Local Plan and is a vision for the evolution of the campus, not a set of planning applications. It provides a direction for decisions about the future of the campus and a framework against which future planning applications will be assessed.

A number of projects were mentioned specifically, however, as being in our short- or medium-term plans. In the short-term (2018-2021) these included academic and administrative facilities including a new building for the Kent and Medway Medical School. We also plan to consolidate and improve car parking, create new and improved cycle and pedestrian routes and also continue landscaping, planting and conservation activity.

Medium-term priorities (2022-2031) included new student service and student union buildings, new teaching and academic buildings, additional leisure and sports facilities including a swimming pool and the possible development of a conference centre and hotel. We also included plans for new transport links between Whitstable Road and the Park Wood Road and an option on providing new premises and location for Blean Primary School, something we were asked to consider by attendees of one of our consultation events last year.

Of particular interest to those attending our consultation events was the preferred location of the conference centre/hotel facility adjacent to University Road opposite the Innovation Centre. At the time of writing we are due to meet with representatives of local residents to discuss this with them in more detail.

We are currently working our way through the feedback we received during the consultation, full details of which will be available in the Stage 2 Consultation Statement due to be published in December at www.kent.ac.uk/masterplan/.

Free online course from Centre for Child Protection

The Centre for Child Protection is offering a free four-week online course for people who work with vulnerable children and young people.

The Communicating Effectively with Vulnerable Children and Young People course teaches participants techniques to help break down communication barriers with children of all ages. Each week of the course is split into four activities, using videos from experts and open discussions with other users to engage participants. Accessible from any device, the activities take around four hours a week to complete and participants can complete the work at their own pace.

Find out more about the course or sign up through FutureLearn at www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/ccp.
Partnership working in the community

Vice-Chancellor Karen Cox was among those who attended a Pop-up Safety Hub in Canterbury City Centre during Freshers’ Week.

More than 700 students sought safety advice and guidance from the Hub team, which included representatives from Canterbury City Council, the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent Police, the two Students’ Unions, Canterbury College and the city’s street pastors. The Hub also promoted Kent Union’s Zero Tolerance scheme, which is helping more than 30 local night-time venues to train their staff to combat sexual harassment and discrimination. Find out more about the scheme at https://kentunion.co.uk/zerotolerance.

Neighbourhood days
We also supported Canterbury City Council's neighbourhood days during October, working with the police and the Council to visit student residential areas and give advice on community living, noise reduction and the disposal of rubbish. The team used the opportunity to distribute a new student planner, developed by the Council in association with the two universities to provide information on being neighbourly, as well as sharing general safety and wellbeing advice.

Student Community Champions
New Student Community Champions have begun their work in the St Michael’s Road and Hales Place areas. The 2018/19 representatives are:

- St Michael’s Road area: Rachael, Shouvik, Ashleigh and Rebecca.
- Hales Place area: Marko, Walipur, Tara, Julia, Ann-Marie and Zoe.
(www.facebook.com/UKC-St-MichaelsSCCs/)
(www.facebook.com/UKC-Hales-Place-area-360039244450079/)

The Community Champions support conversations between residents and students. They provide advice on noise issues, recycling and household waste problems, as well as participating in Neighbourhood Watch and other volunteering activities. Find out more at www.kent.ac.uk/studentservices/community/SCC_index.html.

Residents play their part
Local residents also played an active role in welcoming students to their communities. St Michael’s Road Area Residents’ Association produces a ‘welcome guide’ to help students who are new to the area to settle into the community. The group also circulates a regular newsletter for residents, with input provided by the Universities. Students are welcome to attend the range of social events that the association runs throughout the year and to take part in its annual general meeting.

The St Stephen’s Residents’ Association invited Kent Union President Aaron Thompson to attend their November meeting. Aaron talked to the group about the progress with Kent Union’s community initiatives, including the Zero Tolerance scheme. The group also discussed opportunities for students to take part in community activities and for residents to support the Union’s student volunteering programmes.

Student volunteering
Student volunteers continue to support the local community through their involvement in Kent Union projects.

Many of the Union’s volunteering programmes are linked to local organisations and address local social issues. Students get involved in both one-off opportunities and longer term projects focused on social action, education and sustainability.

The volunteering projects that students are taking up in the new academic year include:
- helping students at Archbishop’s School to read and encouraging them to become more active by taking part in school sports sessions
- helping St Nicholas School to provide opportunity days for their students on the University campus
- offering after-school tutoring in three Canterbury schools
- helping Wildwood’s Ranger Team to maintain animal enclosures and facilities or assisting with litter picks
- maintaining sites at Westgate Gardens, Kent Wildlife Trust and the RSPB in Blean Woods, including coppicing, painting and litter picks
- chatting to elderly residents at Age UK Canterbury during their regular ‘Tea and Chat’ sessions

For more information about Kent Union’s volunteering programmes visit https://kentunion.co.uk/volunteering. If you would like to involve students in a local community project, contact volunteering@kent.ac.uk.
We’re working together with Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU), Canterbury City Council and Kent Police to provide our local residents with key dates and useful contacts for information and advice.

**Dates for your diary**

- **Saturday 1 December 2018, 10.00-15.00** – General Open Day at CCCU (Canterbury campus)
- **Monday 17 December 2018 to Tuesday 1 January 2019** – CCCU Winter vacation
- **Monday 17 December 2018 to Monday 14 January 2019** – Kent Winter vacation
- **Monday 14 January to Friday 5 April 2019** – Spring term at Kent
- **Monday 21 January to Friday 17 May 2019** – Semester 2 at CCCU
- **Friday 25 January 2019** – CCCU graduations at Canterbury Cathedral*

* As families gather to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students, this can increase the number of visitors to the city and amount of traffic in the area. Please allow extra time when travelling through Canterbury.

For more key dates visit:
- Kent – www.kent.ac.uk/community/dates
- CCCU – www.canterbury.ac.uk/termdates

**Community events – on campus and in the city**

- **Whitefriars Christmas market** – Friday 16 December-Monday 24 December. Shop for your Christmas gifts and goodies at Canterbury’s annual Christmas market.
- **Bim Afolami MP on Brexit, the Conservative Party, and the Future of British Politics** – Thursday 6 December 2018, 18.00-20.00, Grimond Lecture Theatre 3, University of Kent campus – Admission free.
- **Lemn Sissay: Inspirational Speaker Series** – Thursday 24 January 2019, 17.00-18.30, Grimond Lecture Theatre 1, University of Kent campus – Admission free. Canterbury’s Poet Laureate, Lemn Sissay, gives an inspiring talk about his path to success.

**Who to contact**

If you are experiencing problems with your neighbours, use the contacts below for information and advice.

**Noise**

T: 01227 862 202
E: envhealth@canterbury.gov.uk
www.canterbury.gov.uk/pests-pollution-food-hygiene/noise-and-neighbours

**Rubbish**

T: 0800 031 9091
E: help.canterbury@serco.com
https://serco.canterbury.gov.uk/bins-recycling/serco/report-a-missed-collection

**Parking**

T: 01227 862 429
E: parking.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk
www.canterbury.gov.uk/parking-travel-roads/report-illegal-parking

**Crime or anti-social behaviour**

T: 101 to report non-urgent crime
T: 999 to report an emergency
Find out who your Police Constable or Police Community Support Officer is by entering your postcode at www.kent.police.uk

**Students**

Both universities take the concerns of our neighbours very seriously. If residents experience anti-social behaviour, whether they believe it to be by students or not, they should contact the agencies listed above as they have the power to intervene. However, if you need further support both universities have a community liaison person who can provide further advice.

- **University of Kent**
  E: communityliaison@kent.ac.uk
- **Canterbury Christ Church University**
  E: communityliaison@canterbury.ac.uk

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**WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU**

Community is one way we are strengthening our partnerships with residents and businesses and part of this is about developing a dialogue. If you have any questions or comments about the University or there is something you would like us to feature in a future issue, please email communityinfo@kent.ac.uk, call 01227 824009 or write to us at Community, Corporate Communications, Room 155, The Registry, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ.

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We’d like to hear your feedback, tell us what you think | E: communityinfo@kent.ac.uk  T: 01227 824009  November 2018 | 4
Documentaries explore innovative research at Kent

A new documentary series on KMTV showcases the ground-breaking research carried out at Kent.

The series began with a look at the science behind IVF treatment. Titled IVF: Science and Society, the programme marked the 40th anniversary of the birth of the world’s first IVF baby. It explored the work of Darren Griffin, Professor of Genetics at the University’s School of Biosciences, and Professor Alan Thornhill, an Honorary Professor at the School.

In the second film, The Mohawk of Consciousness, Dr Srivas Chennu from the University’s School of Computing considered the use of advanced electroencephalogram technology (high-density EEG) to look for signs of consciousness in vegetative state patients.

KMTV is a joint venture between the University of Kent and KM Media Group. It offers local television programming in North Kent as well as online at www.kmtv.co.uk.

New degree programme for 2019

A new degree in Human Geography will be available at the University of Kent from the start of the 2019 academic year.

The new BSc (Hons) course will offer an opportunity to explore how Human Geographers can make a difference in a world facing complex and evolving changes. It combines geography topics with innovative teaching to allow students to develop an understanding of why the world is changing so quickly and how these changes affect the environment, culture and economies at local, national and global scales. Students can choose to spend a year in professional practise gaining valuable work experience in the UK or abroad, using our extensive global network.

To mark the launch of the new course, we are offering Future Leadership Scholarships of £2,000 to students who demonstrate their passion to pursue a career that seeks to solve the world’s problems. More information is available at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/2532/human-geography.

Upcoming pubTALK dates

Work to connect our researchers with our local community continues through the regular pubTALK series.

pubTALKs are held on the second Monday of every month in locations across the Canterbury district. The events usually feature a short talk on a particular topic, followed by an open question and answer session. The talks are free to attend and upcoming speakers and topics include:

- Dr Robert de Vries, Lies, Fake News and Statistics – 10 December 2018, 19.00, The Old Buttermarket
- Professor David Oliver, Palliative Care: not just for cancer? – 11 February 2019, 19.00, location tbc
- Hind Elhinnawy, Secular Muslim Women’s Activism in the Age of ISIS – 11 March 2019, 19.00 location tbc
- Keli Jenner, Charity giving: is it in the eyes? – 8 April 2019, 19.00, location tbc.

Find out more at www.kent.ac.uk/qstep/pubtalk.html.

Join our advisory group

We are seeking two members of the public to join our Public Engagement with Research Advisory Group to help deliver our research engagement strategy.

Our public engagement with research strategy shapes how we share our research knowledge, seek input from the public, and encourage a two-way relationship between our researchers and the local community. It helps us to share the benefits of our research with people outside of the University.

As a member of the advisory group you will contribute to our work by offering your perspective on engagement with research activities at Kent. You will make links with our research teams and learn more about engagement and research in higher education. To find out more contact Maddy Bell, Impact and Engagement Officer, at peresearch@kent.ac.uk
New book explores crucial role of Umbrella Centre

A new book by Sian Lewis-Anthony of Kent Law School is helping to raise awareness and generate funds for the Canterbury Umbrella Centre.

Sian spent three months conducting research at the Centre last year, speaking to people who use its services and interviewing staff and volunteers. The book, titled *Welcome to the Umbrella Centre: A Journey Through Mental Health*, was launched in October.

The project aligns with Sian’s current research examining mental health service provision in the UK from the perspective of a human right to health. The book tells the stories of Umbrella Centre members and explores the value they attach to using the Centre as a ‘place to be themselves.’

The Umbrella Centre was established in 1992 and provides a community social centre as well as offering support to people suffering from mental ill-health. In addition, the Centre also provides mental health support for University of Kent students through a ‘Millenials Breaking Barriers’ programme. This programme encourages students to discuss their mental health in a supportive environment and to develop coping strategies. Students and staff from the University also regularly volunteer at the Centre and contribute through fundraising activities.

Find out more about the Centre’s work at https://canterburyumbrella.co.uk

Medical School Dean appointed

Professor Chris Holland is the Foundation Dean of the Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS).

Professor Holland joined KMMS from the University of Surrey, where he was a Professorial Teaching Fellow and Director of Learning and Teaching for Medicine, responsible for learning, teaching and the student experience for the University’s medical programmes. He has enjoyed an extensive career in medicine and medical education, working with the General Medical Council and Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Professor Holland said: “I’m excited to have joined the Kent and Medway Medical School as Foundation Dean. The new school brings two great, but different, universities together in partnership to offer a new model of patient-focused medical education. KMMS will play a unique and distinctive role in supporting the NHS in Kent and Medway, offering training and development opportunities to help attract and retain medical talent, as well as opening up access to medical education in our region.”

The medical school will open in September 2020, offering 100 undergraduate medical places on a yearly basis. The five year undergraduate programme will be taught at both universities’ Canterbury campuses with medical placements in Primary, Community and Secondary Care across Kent and Medway.

New community scholarships launched

A new Community Scholarships programme has been launched to support students who lead projects in the local community.

The scheme is run by the University’s Student Services team and offers students up to £1,000 in funding to support community projects. Those projects can be focussed on music, art, sport, the environment, or education. They can be student-led or take the form of a collaboration with local organisations.

If you would like our students to help with a community project you can apply to set up a scheme to be funded by the scholarship. For more information visit www.kent.ac.uk/studentservices/studentlife.html.

**How your support makes a difference**

A new film exploring how the generosity of alumni, friends of the University and the local community has made a huge difference to the lives of students at Kent. Kent is now available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNjNhndab2g&feature=youtu.be