CAREFUL WORDS LEAD TO CLEANER AIR FOR CANTERBURY

Efforts to get cleaner air in Canterbury have been given a boost by new University of Kent research showing the power of careful wording in getting drivers to switch their engines off at level crossings.

The findings were a result of a project looking into low-cost psychological interventions to reduce vehicle engine idling and improve air quality, led by Professor Dominic Abrams, Dr Tim Hopthrow and Dr Fanny Lalot from our School of Psychology.

The research, which was funded by Canterbury City Council following a successful grant bid to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), observed 6,049 drivers’ engine idling at the St Dunstan’s and St Stephen’s level crossings in Canterbury, Kent. The researchers tested the effects of three intervention signs fixed to lampposts, which amplified existing signs to request drivers to switch off their engines.

Social norm and outcome efficacy messages successfully increased the proportion of drivers who turned off their engines, by 42% and 25%, respectively. This reduction in vehicle idling significantly reduced concentrations of atmospheric particulate matter (PM2.5) two metres above ground level. The presence of larger numbers of other drivers boosted the impact of the social norm road signage.

As a result of the research, Canterbury City Council has installed permanent road signage at the St Dunstan’s, St Stephen’s and Sturry railway level crossings.

Kent Business School in top 1% of ‘triple crown’ business schools

Kent Business School is among the top 1% of ‘triple crown’ business schools worldwide following its European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD).

The ‘Triple Crown’ involves awards by the three leading business school accreditation organisations – EQUIS, The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and The Association of MBAs (AMBA).

This three-year accreditation will offer Kent Business School strategic guidance for quality improvement and future development and ensure it is part of a vibrant, global community of mutual learning and good practice with other schools.
Community

Number of hungry children doubled during pandemic

The wide-ranging impact of the Covid-19 pandemic across society has been brought into stark relief by new research into food bank usage led by Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby at our School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR).

Professor Taylor-Gooby, who is a trustee of Canterbury Food Bank, found that the demand for children’s parcels had increased by as much as 107% nationwide in the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Both national and regional data was analysed to establish these findings.

Canterbury Food Bank saw a 69% rise in demand for children’s meals in the 12 months since March 2020.

Kent Summer Fest

We are delighted to be hosting a fun-packed fortnight of events for our students at our Canterbury and Medway campuses, from 21 June -2 July.

After what has been a challenging year, we wanted to create a great student experience that they will remember. Open to our students only, we will be inviting them to socialise, relax and experience what Kent and our campuses have to offer.

Activities will be predominantly outdoors, with film screenings, live music, workshops, street food and more.

Students will be encouraged to get regular asymptomatic Covid-19 testing, with all events in line with Government restrictions at the time.

Kent Summer Fest is organised by the University in collaboration with the students’ Unions.

Great British Spring Clean

On Saturday 12 June, Kent Union students, staff and volunteers are taking part in the Great British Spring Clean along the River Stour with the local community group Plastic Free Canterbury.

Plastic Free Canterbury aims to reduce the use of plastics in the City and surrounding villages, with the goal of achieving Plastic Free Accreditation for the area.

Public asked to report released pet terrapin sightings

Suzie Simpson, a Biodiversity management student at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), is asking the public to report sightings of terrapins (North American native freshwater turtles) in the UK.

In order to build a more comprehensive picture of terrapin numbers and their whereabouts in UK freshwater habitats, Suzie is leading an observational study known as the Turtle Tally Citizen Science Project.

As terrapin sightings tend to occur in spring when the turtles come out to bask in lakes and ponds until October/November, Suzie is asking the public to send in sighting information to the Turtle Tally website.
Half a million people overlooked Universal Credit during Covid-19 pandemic

Claiming Universal Credit is hampered by public confusion and stigma according to recent University of Kent research. Around half a million people who were eligible for Universal Credit at the start of Covid-19 did not claim it – despite often having sharp falls in income and struggling financially.

The research led by Dr Ben Baumberg Geiger at our School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) found that 220,000 people thought they were eligible for Universal Credit but did not want to claim it, with 59% stating the perceived hassle of applying and the challenge of figuring out if they were eligible the contributing factor to not applying. A further sizeable minority (27%) did not claim Universal Credit because of benefits stigma.

There were also an estimated 280,000-390,000 people who wrongly thought they were ineligible for Universal Credit. Some people had actively considered applying for benefits and decided they were not eligible, but mostly people just had a ‘sense’ that they were not eligible for anything.

The report is part of the Welfare at a (Social) Distance project led by the University of Salford, in collaboration with Kent, the University of Leeds, the London School of Economics and Deakin University, Australia.

Gulbenkian reopenings

Gulbenkian Cinema on our Canterbury campus is open again from 18 May, offering great films and comfortable, socially distanced seating. Enjoy Oscar winners Nomadland, Minari and Sound of Metal, plus Ammonite, The Dig and more. To celebrate the end of lockdown, Gulbenkian is offering 10% off all standard screenings (not family or Live&Recorded) until 30 June! Just input promo code: OSCAR in the box at the top of the film booking screen before selecting your seats. (Discount not available in conjunction with the half price student/under 25 offer).

Visit the Gulbenkian website to find out more about upcoming showings.

Gulbenkian Café reopens more widely for takeaway drinks, snacks and sandwiches from 17 May. Open Monday to Friday, 9.00-15.00.

Further reopenings

Kent Sport: Kent Sport’s indoor tennis courts at the Pavilion are now open, while indoor sports and indoor classes at the Sports Centre have resumed. All sessions need to be booked in advance. Find out more on the Kent Sport website.

Co-op: The main Co-op on Union Plaza has now reopened and welcomes the local community to use this facility, as well as the Co-op in Park Wood Student Hub.
Bringing tourism back to Kent

Approximately 1,200 guests attending the Open Golf Championship will be staying on our Canterbury campus from 11-19 July 2021. Those enjoying our hospitality include the Open’s Greenkeepers, Security and Caterers as well as individual bed and breakfast bookings for spectators.

Kent Hospitality is also looking forward to welcoming families to campus with our first ever Kent Family Activity Breaks taking place in August. Open to all there is a packed programme of activities, workshops and games planned for ages 5+, with residential and non-residential packages on offer. Furthermore, the popular bOing! International Family Festival is back this year (28-29 August).

A Wedding Fayre will take place in Darwin Conference Suite on Sunday 15 August, an exciting opportunity for the Hospitality team to meet couples planning their special day and promote our venues across campus.

Looking ahead, the Lambeth Conference will take place from 27 July to 8 August 2022 with over 1,800 guests staying in our campus accommodation.

University to host a UK leg of The Walk

The University has been chosen by Good Chance Theatre to host a UK leg of The Walk, an 8000km travelling festival of art and hope that aims to focus attention on the urgent needs of young refugees.

The focal point and central figure of The Walk is Little Amal, a 3.5m tall puppet of a young refugee girl designed and built by the Handspring Puppet Company, the world-famous creators of War Horse.

On 21 October, Little Amal will arrive on our Canterbury campus for a series of special events, having set out from Turkey’s Syrian border in July. Along the way, she will pass through Greece, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium.

Little Amal’s journey to the campus will take the form of a procession from Canterbury Cathedral, a spectacle that will involve hundreds of local schoolchildren and Kent students. There will be live performances of music, arts and puppetry at the Gulbenkian, ending with an evening of storytelling from Refugee Tales in the Gulbenkian Theatre.

We were invited to participate in The Walk because of our reputation for and prominent role in working towards a better future for detainees and refugees. Kent is the only UK university to host the project.

Graduation ceremonies

We will be holding celebration events in Spring 2022 for graduates of the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 academic years, as graduation ceremonies will take place in absentia again this year.

The celebrations will be held in both Rochester and Canterbury cathedrals.

Those who graduated in either July or November 2020 will attend ceremonies in March 2022.

Those who graduate in either July or November 2021 will attend ceremonies in May 2022.

More information can be found on our Congregations webpage.
School of Biosciences and KMTV begin filming Generation Genome

Filming is underway for Generation Genome, a six-part TV documentary series designed for school-age students. Supported by the BFI’s Young Audiences Content Fund (YACF), the project is a joint venture between the University and KMTV, the local TV channel covering Kent and Medway.

Based on research at our School of Biosciences, the series will feature Professor Darren Griffin and recent graduate Ogo Anokwuru as presenters.

Each 24-minute programme in the series will focus on a particular strand of genetics of topical interest and linked to the school curriculum for 13- to 18-year-olds. There will be a dynamic mix of real-life demonstrations, 3D animations and computer simulations together with human and animal case studies in a variety of locations including laboratories, farms and food production outlets, zoos, museums, hospitals, schools and classrooms.

Students from across the University will also contribute and gain important skills and work experience in the making of the series.

Filming on Generation Genome will finish in January 2022, with transmission expected later in the year. The premiere of each episode will take place at the Gulbenkian theatre on our Canterbury campus. Once complete it will be made available to schools across the country.

Local charity donations from philanthropy students

Undergraduate students at our School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) have made a £1500 grant to two local charities as part of their philanthropy studies.

Their chosen charities were Food Friends in Whitstable and the Canterbury Foodbank, which received £1000 and £500 respectively.

The elective module, ‘Learning by Giving – Philanthropy in Action’, is one of the first of its kind to be run by a UK university. It was designed to provide students with a unique opportunity and experience as philanthropists, while working directly with local community organisations to learn more about charities and philanthropy.

The students involved were: Lily Barker, Kamaljeet Benipal, Danielle Richardson, Babajide Allen, Emmanuella Asmah and Samantha Ruto.

Kent and Medway Medical School Scholarships

We are very grateful to our generous benefactors for gifting over 25 scholarships covering either tuition fees or maintenance costs for our 2020/2021 cohort at Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS).

Hilary Edridge, Head of Major Campaigns at Kent, said: ‘We are delighted to be able to offer such a high number of scholarships so that more students can achieve their dreams of becoming the doctors and scientists of tomorrow.

‘Currently we are able to offer 8 philanthropic prizes for first year students and beyond. Prizes play an important part in our fundraising strategy engaging with individuals, local and national organisations and offering benefactors the opportunity to make a gift for a variety of reasons, often of a personal nature. To date, we have raised over £5million in philanthropic gifts from 133 benefactors.’
Dates for your diary

- **Friday 18 June** – Summer term ends at Kent
- **Monday 21 June - Friday 2 July** – Kent Summer Fest (students only)
- **Sunday 11-Monday 19 July** – Open Golf Championship hospitality at Kent
- **Saturday 28-Sunday 29 August** – bOing! International Family Festival 2021
- **Monday 27 September** – Start of Autumn term at Kent

For more key dates visit our [Events Calendar](#).

Upcoming live events at Gulbenkian

- **Canterbury Academy: Evita** – Wednesday 16 - Friday 18 June
- **Catrin Finch & Seckou Keita** – 20.00 on Tuesday 22 June
- **Tom Stade: You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet** – 20.00 on Monday 28 June
- **Zog – live on stage** – Monday 5 - Tuesday 8 July
- **Harry Baker: I am 10,000** – 20.00 on Thursday 8 July
- **Richard Thompson** – 19.30 on Thursday 15 July

Visit the [Gulbenkian website](#) to see more upcoming live events.

Who to contact

We’re working together with Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury City Council and Kent Police to provide our local residents with useful contacts for information and advice. If you are experiencing problems with your neighbours, please use the contacts below.

**Noise**
T: 01227 862 202 E: envhealth@canterbury.gov.uk
Report noise complaints on [Canterbury City Council’s Noise and Air Pollution webpage](#).

**Rubbish**
T: 01227 947 860
Report a missed bin on [Canterbury City Council’s Household Waste webpage](#).

**Parking**
T: 01227 862 585
Report illegal parking on [Canterbury City Council’s Parking and Roads webpage](#).

**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 on [Kent Police’s website](#).

**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

**Undergraduate Virtual Open Event (3 July)**

Discover Kent’s courses and campuses, and chat to staff and students. Book now via our [Open Events webpage](#), it’s time to build your future.

**COVID Hero Award for Darren Weir**

Kent Law School’s Director of Lawyering Skills, Darren Weir, has been honoured with a ‘COVID Hero Award’ by Kent Law Society. The award was presented in recognition of Darren’s work on the Law School’s innovative Lawyering Skills Programme.

The Kent Law Society exists to support solicitors, their staff and trainees, and law students in the County of Kent. The Society’s awards recognised legal professionals within the region “who have gone above and beyond over the last 12 months”. Award winners were announced by Stephanie Boyce, President of The Law Society, at an online ceremony held on Friday 7 May.