

Under the Umbrella

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2025

Latest events at Umbrella!

A spring Wedding!



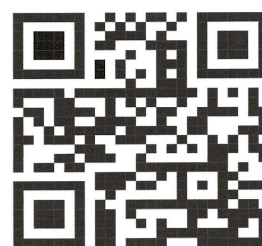
On May 2nd we were delighted to host the wedding of two of our much loved members — Benedict and Catherine. It was a very special occasion for Umbrella as they chose to not only hold their reception in the Centre but their ceremony as well.



The sun shone brightly for them and they had the added advantage of having the back drop of the beautiful Westgate Gardens for some of their photos. We wish them a life time of much happiness!



Website



<https://Canterburyumbrella.org>

To Donate

We would love to host **YOUR** special occasions - birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, corporate events with or without catering. We hire out various rooms / the whole centre at very competitive rates! Please contact the Centre Manager for available dates: will@canterburyumbrella.org





More Recent Events

The staff, Trustees and some members enjoyed a tea party to wish Barry Gore (Trustee) a very happy retirement and to thank him for his dedicated service for over 30 years. Without his efforts the Centre would not be the busy hub it is today!

He was presented with a card from the centre and a piece of art work created by the Tuesday Art Group.



Wellbeing at the Centre of everything we do!

With our commitment to supporting peoples' wellbeing we are aiming to run a new course of 6 weekly, 2 hour sessions called 'Living in the Moment'. It is designed to help cultivate mindfulness, self-awareness and emotional resilience. It should equip participants with practical tools to manage anxiety, depression and emotional distress.

We have negotiated a level of funding but need support from a 'crowd funding' campaign to secure the funding. We will receive £3,932 from Kent County Community Health and £1,000 from NHS Kent & Medway as soon as we get 20 pledges of support from the public. If you are interested in adding your support to this project please follow this link for more information / details and how to donate to the scheme : <https://www.spacehive.com/living-in-the-moment-workshops>

Our regular weekly activities: (Contact the Centre for timings)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wake up to Yoga	Art Class	Philosophy chat	Last Thursday in the month - Music session	Creative Craft Club
Hand Reflexology		Board Games		Pool / table tennis/ Darts
Reading Group		June 18th Interactive Music Therapy 1pm		
Gardening club in Westgate gardens				
C4U - Canterbury Hub for Ukraine Welcome Hub				

(Contact the Centre for timings) 01227 767660



Activity session:

One of our popular activity sessions — **Craft Club** has now swapped to a Friday. This has enabled Benedict and Catherine to run two sessions either side of lunch time from 11-12 and then again from 1-2pm. Some people come for just one of the sessions, whereas others take advantage of enjoying fish and chips in the café and then stay for the second session. This gives them time to complete projects started in the morning.

You can even bring your own projects to work on and just enjoy the company and chat with the friendly and welcoming group.



Ongoing projects: The garden ... a space to watch!

Unfortunately we were unlucky this time with the BBC competition to win a 'make-over' for the large bed by the car park. But this will not stop us trying to replant the space, to make it another area for people to sit in and enjoy their refreshments. Constraints on our charity's finances mean it may take a while to replant as we have to rely on donations and grants etc. but we are working on it.

If you have any spare plants your garden or want to donate towards our garden please see our manager Will or our gardeners Vlodymir and Peter.



Garden Thefts

Sadly though, as our beds are beginning to look more colourful and cared for, someone has been stealing some of our spring plants. These were bought by one of our members in memory of some of our recently departed members. A bag of soil waiting to be dug into the beds and a new rose have also been stolen which has saddened everyone! Let's hope it has been an isolated incident and we don't have to take the matter further using our CCTV.

Hanging baskets

We would like to pass on a big 'Thank you' to Canterbury Business Improvement District (BID) for the kind donation of our hanging baskets this year. They certainly add colour to the front of our building!

Publicity for the Centre:

We would still like to increase our general footfall and café sales to support our Centre's finances. However we realise many people still don't know we exist or where we are situated. As we are unable to advertise the Centre in St Peter's Place we now have two banners hanging from our back wall into the Westgate Gardens to help remedy the situation. Have a look if you are in the gardens and please tell your friends about us and the services we offer. We've even given our café it's own specific name - we hope you like it!



Under the Umbrella



We are delighted to announce that we now have a new ice cream freezer and drinks cooler next to the main door. We stock a range of different Wallis ice creams e.g. Cornetto, Magnum and Calippo. As the weather has warmed up they have been a great success and have begun to sell very fast!

Thank you to our recent donors:

£1,000 again from Forest of Blean Rotary
£500 from Goodspire Ltd - towards the ice cream freezer.

Nandos, Bookers, Sainsbury's, M&S, FairShare and TW Wholesale for their regular and much appreciated donations!



Membership is £12 / year and gives you good discounts in the café. If you want to become a member or renew your membership please speak to Caroline on the welcome desk.

