

Umbrella Centre Press Release (25th Anniversary)

You can stand under The Umbrella

The Canterbury Umbrella Centre will be holding a 25th Anniversary celebration on 20th October combined with the launch of their new branding, created by Canterbury design agency, Dodgems and Floss, who chose to support the centre as they wanted to draw more attention to its existence.

It's been 25 years since the centre opened their doors to the people of Canterbury at St Peter's Place near Westgate Towers. The building opened in 1992 as a response to the closure of the long stay mental health hospital, St Augustine's.

The drop-in centre provides a safe haven for local residents with mental health issues, learning difficulties and anyone feeling isolated within the community.

A wide range of activities are on offer to visitors, from arts and crafts, karaoke and table tennis, to pool, yoga, fitness classes and day trips, to name a few.

Their Job Club and Adult Education classes help to encourage residents to take positive steps towards their careers and there are drop-in surgeries where people can receive one-to-one advice on mental health, wellbeing and benefits. The aim is to aid individual progression and create an environment conducive to recovery.

Historically the centre has been funded by KCC but this all changed three years ago when the funding process was changed to a strategic partnership, resulting in a huge reduction of financial support for the charity.

Despite this, they're still going, and a huge part of that is due to loyal supporters such as Sainsbury, Morrisons, Tesco, Nandos, Kent University, Canterbury College, Marks and Spencer and Dulux, plus many more.

This year has also seen a record number of students from Kent University, Canterbury Christchurch and local sixth forms volunteering as part of the Millennials Breaking Barriers group- designed to encourage students to interact with the charity but also receive support themselves.

The Umbrella Centre is extending their anniversary invite to all Canterbury residents to come and celebrate with them on 20th October from 12 noon and meet some of the people who have been helped by their dedicated volunteers.

To find out more about the Umbrella Centre, visit www.canterburyumbrella.co.uk