



# THE DIGITAL BEAT

## The Canterbury Beat – Edition #20: CANTERBURY PRIDE

This week's edition is dedicated entirely to the roaring success, vibrant energy, and incredible community spirit of Canterbury Pride.

Over the weekend, our historic city was painted in every colour of the rainbow as thousands of residents, families, and visitors came together to celebrate love, diversity, and inclusion. From the spectacular parade making its way down the historic High Street to the buzzing main festival arena in the Dane John, the atmosphere was electric, joyful, and safe from start to finish.

### A Sea of Colour from Westgate to Dane John

An event of this scale brings an incredible influx of footfall into the city centre, requiring a monumental collective effort to keep things running smoothly.

The Parade Route: The parade kicked off with unbelievable energy, creating a spectacular procession that moved past the iconic Westgate towers and flowed down the High Street. The sheer volume of smiling faces lining the cobbles was a brilliant sight to see.

### Professionalism at Its Best: Shoutout to Akon Security

An event of this size simply cannot function safely without world-class crowd management, and this weekend, the security operation was nothing short of flawless.

Akon Security: We want to extend our highest praise and sincerest thanks to the team at Akon Security. Their personnel were absolute professionals from the moment the first barriers went up until the final crowds dispersed.

The Right Approach: Managing a festival atmosphere requires a delicate balance of firm safety protocols and a welcoming, friendly demeanour. The Akon team nailed it. They handled the busy entrance gates at the Dane John with outstanding efficiency, kept crowd flows perfectly managed, and worked hand-in-hand with our officers to resolve minor issues instantly. They were a credit to the event.

### Thank You to the Organisers

A massive, heartfelt thank you goes out to the Canterbury Pride organising committee, the volunteers, our council partners, and the local businesses who opened their doors to host events.

**Flawless Execution:** Months of meticulous planning behind the scenes resulted in an event that ran like clockwork. Because the infrastructure was so soundly put together, it created a naturally safe environment where people could simply focus on celebrating.

**A Peaceful Success:** Despite the thousands of people filling our streets and parks, the weekend was overwhelmingly peaceful and good-natured. It is a testament to the pride our city takes in looking out for one another.

### The Logistics of a Moving Parade

**Question:** How do you keep a massive, slow-moving parade safe when it's cutting right through the middle of a working city centre?

**The Answer:** It relies on a tactic called "Rolling Bubble Management." Weeks before Pride, organisers and security teams map out the exact timing of the parade. As the procession moves down the High Street from Westgate, security marshals and officers form a protective "bubble" around it, dynamically closing off intersecting lanes and pedestrian crossing points just before the front of the parade arrives, and opening them immediately after the tail passes. This keeps the parade entirely safe from external hazards while minimizing the disruption to the rest of the city.

### OVER TO YOU

Did you join in the Canterbury Pride celebrations this weekend?  
What was your personal highlight from the parade or the main stage in the Dane John?

Did you get a chance to chat with any of the Beat officers or the security teams out on patrol?