



THE DIGITAL BEAT

The Canterbury Beat – Edition #19: CANTERBURY UNLOCKED: A Massive Success for Our Community

What an incredible weekend it has been! This week's edition is dedicated entirely to celebrating the resounding success of the Canterbury Unlocked event.

Over the past few days, our historic streets were completely transformed into a vibrant celebration of local culture, heritage, and community. From live music and street performances to exclusive behind-the-scenes access to our city's hidden gems, it was a spectacular showcase of what makes our area so special. For us, it was an absolute privilege to be out on the ground, ensuring everyone could enjoy the festivities safely.

A Spectacular Turnout & Vibrant Atmosphere

Events of this scale bring a massive influx of visitors, and the energy across our key spaces was brilliant from start to finish.

Pavement to Pavement: The High Street was buzzing with families, residents, and tourists soaking up the atmosphere. Managing crowds of this size requires a seamless team effort, and we were thrilled to see the community spirit shining through from the historic gateway at Westgate all the way through the city centre.

Approachable Policing: Our team spent the weekend on high-visibility foot patrols right in the heart of the action, keeping a close eye on the celebrations stretching into the Dane John. We had hundreds of fantastic conversations, helped visitors navigate the busy event zones, and even paused to enjoy a few of the street performances alongside you!

Seamless Partnership in Action

An event this successful doesn't happen by accident. The smooth running of Canterbury Unlocked was the result of months of meticulous planning and real-time collaboration.

The Joint Network: Throughout the weekend, we worked hand-in-hand with the event marshals, local businesses, and our council partners across all the main hubs.

Radio Coordination: Our radio network was live and constant, allowing us to manage crowd flows between the busy bottleneck at Westgate and the open lawns of the Dane John, locate a couple of reunited lost children within minutes, and ensure that minor logistical challenges were sorted before they could impact the fun. It was community partnership working at its absolute best.

Keeping the Peace

Despite the massive numbers of people descending on the city, the event was overwhelmingly peaceful, good-natured, and safe.

Community Pride: The low level of incident reports over the weekend is a true testament to our community and our visitors. Everyone looked out for one another, respected our historic surroundings, and created an environment that was welcoming to all generations.

A Huge Thank You: We want to extend a massive thank you to the organizers, the local businesses who opened their doors, and every single person who came out to make Canterbury Unlocked such a memorable milestone for the city.

DID YOU KNOW? The Logistics of a Major City Event

Question: How do the emergency services make sure they can get through if there's a medical issue during a packed street festival?

The Answer: It's all about "Dynamic Corridor Planning." Weeks before Canterbury Unlocked launched, we mapped out clear, invisible emergency routes through the pedestrian zones of the High Street. Event stalls and stages are strictly positioned to leave a specific minimum width. On the day, our foot patrols are constantly checking that these corridors stay clear, meaning that even in a sea of thousands of people moving between Westgate and the Dane John, an ambulance or first responder can navigate the historic layout without delay.

OVER TO YOU

Did you head into town to experience Canterbury Unlocked this weekend?

What was your absolute favorite performance, exhibition, or hidden space that you discovered?

Would you like to see this become a regular fixture on our city's annual calendar?