At the end of January 2018, we released an interim edition of Charting the Journey on the forthcoming landscaping works, but we are pleased to provide you with a fuller update on what has been happening over the winter months.

The scaffolding was completed on the West Towers which enabled works to take place such as cleaning, shelter-coating and repointing the North West Tower pinnacles, as well as setting out to provide templates for the masons. Scaffolding is being erected on the North and South aisles ready for works to take place on the Nave Aisle roofs.

On the Nave roof, works are progressing well. In section one, the old lead that was re-smelted continues to be laid. Timber repairs are underway in section two and in section three, the old lead is coming off the building.

In the winter, it is too cold for stonemasons to fix stones to the building as the mortar does not set, so the masons are busy carving in their workshops in the Precincts and at Broad Oak.

They are also designing and carving new gargoyles to go on the building, replacing ones that have worn away. The designs are based on 16th century ceiling bosses in the Nave.

Demolition on the site of the new Welcome Centre and Community Space is complete, and Buxton Building Contractors have been appointed for the construction of the new Welcome Centre, Viewing Gallery and Community Space, and the landscaping works.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) continued to excavate the Welcome Centre and Community Space and have found some interesting objects including pottery, coins and a bone comb.
Top: View of the Cathedral from Christ Church Gate in January 2018.
Above: Fixing new lead to the roof.
Top Right: Lightning protection on the North West Tower pinnacles
Middle Right: New lion gargoyle
Bottom Right: CAT excavating the Welcome Centre site.
In November 2017, the Communications Officer, Kat Skeates, produced a suite of materials for the Black Prince Conference including a Delegate Handbook, tote bags, volunteer t-shirts, posters and signage. The t-shirts proved to be very popular and we received 60 orders from delegates and speakers.

Kat has been working on initial materials for Becket2020, a programme of events developed by partners from across the UK and a platform to commemorate the remarkable life and death of Thomas Becket.

Look out soon for the new website where you’ll find more information about Becket, learning resources and events.

Have you met Gregory?

Gregory Gargoyle is the Cathedral’s new friendly mascot, and you’ll be seeing a lot more of him on children’s trails, and at our activities and outreach events.

We are working with urban artist, Greg Stobbs of squirlart.org, who is coming up with the final design for Gregory’s character.

Over the next few months Greg will host a series of creative workshops, from which he will draw inspiration for his design.
People

This time we’re finding out more about Jan Leandro, Head of Learning and Participation, who is responsible for the delivery of the Activity Plan and managing a small team of staff including the Collections Manager, Community Engagement Manager and the Communications Officer.

Where did you grow up?
My family relocated from London’s east end to Margate when I was ten where I spent the next 8 years growing up.

What did you do before coming to the Cathedral?
My early career was in TV production working for Channel Television, the BBC and HTV International. For the last 20 years I’ve been working in the arts, culture and heritage sector, more recently on multi-million pound HLF projects for Dreamland, Canterbury Cathedral and Margate Caves.

What’s your favourite part of the Cathedral?
It depends what we are currently working on! At present my favourite place is the Crypt where we are now writing the narrative and scripts for the new exhibition space in the Crypt Treasury.

And finally, what’s your favourite meal?
I am a Taurean with typical Taurean traits, including a love of good food and wine! Anything Mediterranean, Asian, South American, African, Middle Eastern......
Our Community Engagement Manager, Liain O’Driscoll, continues to build partnerships within the community, working with groups such as Kent Refuge Action Network (KRAN) and other organisations across Kent to reach the Journey’s target audiences.

Over the last quarter, Liam has been working with Strange Cargo in Folkestone to test the stained glass Loan Box content in local primary schools, and to inspire the making of large-scale, illuminated lanterns for the Cheriton Light Festival at the end of February 2018.

Two students studying teacher training at Canterbury Christ Church University came on a three week work placement. Caitlin and Tom worked with schools in Shepway and Swale for the Cathedral in the Classroom events in March 2018.

They also used their teacher training knowledge to develop content for a new Monk’s trail for use with Explorer Backpacks and to develop content for the Loan Boxes.

Caitlin and Tom explore the loan boxes during their work experience.

Liam has also been working with Dr Juliette Pattinson, Head of the School of History at the University of Kent, to develop a training programme for our newly recruited Oral History Volunteers, including interview and transcripton techniques.

The Oral Histories Project forms part of the wider Memory Project which launched at the end of last year and will continue throughout the life of The Canterbury Journey creating a community archive.
The period of our first Artist in Residence is coming to an end. Dawn Cole has been researching the Cathedral archives over the past year. Her research will inspire a new body of work for an exhibition at the Cathedral this autumn to mark the centenary of the Armistice, and link with a parallel project in France.

Dawn gave two presentations of her work in January 2018 which were enjoyed by members of the public, volunteers and staff.

A selection of images from the Meet the Artist event in January 2018.

A selection of images from the Meet the Artist event in January 2018.
Black Prince Conference

In November 2017 the Cathedral hosted the inaugural Collections and Conservation Conference and it was a very successful event.

More than 140 delegates attended each day of the conference and an average 85 people attended the evening events.

The overall response to the conference has been overwhelmingly positive. Speakers and Chairs praised the content of the conference (expressing how interesting and enjoyable the presentations were), high levels of attendance, and were very complimentary about the conference organisation.

Delegates highlighted the varied schedule, the standard of the speakers, the high levels of organisation and general welcome offered by staff and volunteers.

Below are comments from attendees:

“Thanks so much for a superb and enlightening conference last week. My head has only just about stopped spinning from it.”

“Volunteers went above and beyond – thank you!”

Young Futures Conference

The 3rd Young Futures Conference took place in November 2017 aimed at 16-25 year olds. The conference is designed to engage young people with heritage through an inspiring programme of presentations and workshops delivered by industry professionals working in the arts, culture and heritage sector.

This year delegates enjoyed presentations by historic costume maker, Ninya Mikhaila, from the BBC’s A Stitch in Time programme, and tin type photographer, Rob Ball.
Left side: selection of images from the BlackPrince Conference, including the presentation from Collections Care Volunteers, Nikki and Peter.

Right side: Images from the Young Futures Conference including the replica jupon made by Ninya Mikhaila for BBC4’s A Stitch in Time programme, and an example of the tin type photography workshop run by Rob Ball from Canterbury Christ Church University.
Twenty-nine volunteers took part in the Black Prince conference in various roles, including welcoming and registering delegates. Students acted as session assistants and conference coordinator as part of their student professional development and course work.

We were delighted that Black Prince Volunteers, Nikki and Peter, who have been researching material held at the Cathedral, were able to present a paper at the Black Prince conference. They also hosted free lunch-time talks as part of the wider conference programme.

A total of 43 volunteers and work placement students were attached to the Tapestry of Light exhibition 14 October – 21 November 2017. Specific roles were created to benefit professional and skills development in exhibition management, curating and public engagement through invigilation.

And finally the Learning and Participation team partnered with the Archives and Library in a joint Christmas party to thank and celebrate the achievements of all volunteers attached to collections, conservation and community engagement projects.

University of Kent MA Curating students working with the artist, Irene Barberis, as part of their professional development practice.
Collections

Collections Manager, Dr Sarah Turner, has been working closely with curators at Turner Contemporary to select material from the Cathedral’s collections as part of the gallery’s spring 2018 exhibition.

‘Journeys with the Wasteland’ is an exploration of T S Eliot’s epic war poem, The Wasteland, written in 1921 and is regarded as one of the most important poems of the 20th century.

A 13th century fragment of a page from a manuscript from the confessions of St Augustine of Hippo, ruminating on his life and sinfulness, written as a prayer to God, is displayed alongside almost 100 works by over 60 historical and contemporary artists. This is a rare opportunity to see this key item from the collections and will be on display now until 7 May 2018.

Other loan requests have been received from the British Library, Fairfax House in York and a further loan to the Turner Contemporary. The loan of material to other organisations is part of our outreach practice and engages wider audiences with the Cathedral’s collections and heritage.
Things to come...

Here is what will be taking place over the next few months of The Canterbury Journey...

• Phase 1 of the landscaping works is continuing in the South Precincts
• The re-roofing works on the Nave will continue.
• The Welcome Centre and Community Space construction will begin.
• Crypt Treasury exhibition space work begins.
• Object selection and interpretation script writing is ongoing.
• Becket 2020 national website and branding launch.
• Gregory the Gargoyle character goes live.
• Cathedral in the Classroom events in Faversham and Folkestone.
• Student Continuing Professional Development and volunteer research projects continue.
• Outreach and community engagement activities can be found in the What’s On guide.

As more work gets underway, your continued support is hugely appreciated. If you have questions about The Canterbury Journey and want to find out more, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

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