



**FOURTH PORTAL**

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**W**elcome to Issue Two of the *Fourth Portal* newspaper, where we explore innovation in all its forms – technological, societal, and systemic.

The Fourth Portal is a social gathering space in Gravesend, Kent, merging work, learning, shopping, and technology.

Twenty years in development, it draws on objects, materials, art, local history, and technology to spark conversations and connections, attracting people from all generations and backgrounds.

Gravesend once thrived with major industries in papermaking, printing, cement, and trade on the River Thames, providing thousands of jobs. As these industries declined, so did employment opportunities, echoing the challenges faced by many post-industrial towns.

Despite this, the first year of the Fourth Portal has revealed that the borough of Gravesham is an oyster of innovation, rich with potential. Issue Two highlights a selection of these local “pearls” – businesses reimagining formats, focusing on wellbeing, creating jobs, and reshaping work while investing in the future.

*The Fourth Portal would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of Gravesham Borough Council and thank the officers and those elected for the warm welcome to this incredible town.*

*And a particularly big thank you to the residents and fellow businesses of Gravesham who have supported and advocated for the Fourth Portal since day one. We would not be doing this without you. Cheers!*

