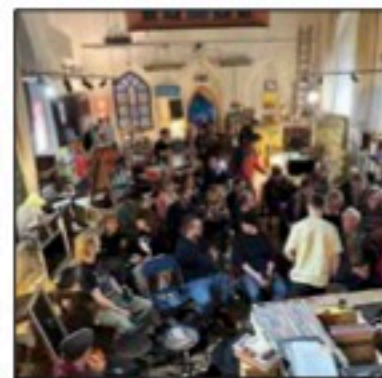
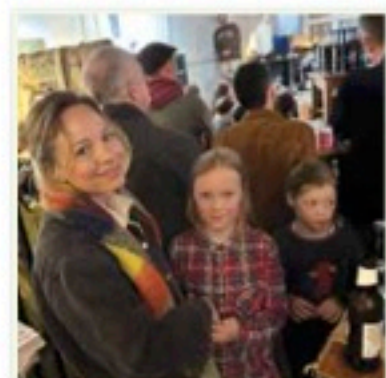
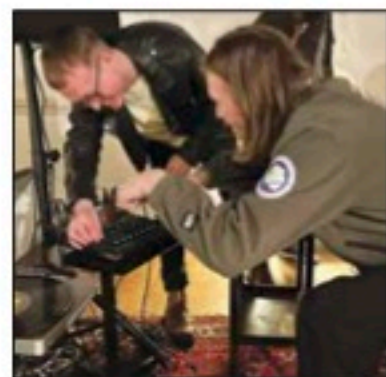




WORDS
John McKiernan

SUPPORT
Fourth Portal Team
www.fourthportal.com

DESIGN
Daniel Crawford
www.typeandnumbers.com



Instagram @fourthportal

Facebook @fourthportals

Website www.fourthportal.com

Welcome to the Fourth Portal Newspaper, Issue 3, capturing the local spirit and innovation of the business and creative community within Gravesend as it continues to cope with the long tail of Covid and today's economic pressures. Interviews discuss how climate change is affecting farming and birdlife, and how businesses are responding, from a hair stylist to local transport. A brewery, gaming café, Caribbean chef, and pharmacist share how people's habits have shifted since Covid. From architecture to storm chasing, the stories demonstrate the resilience and enterprise that continue to shape Gravesend.

FOURTH PORTAL

Fourth Portals are social gathering spaces that combine work, learning, shopping, and technology. Following Great Yarmouth (2020–2022), our next pop-up took place in the former St. Andrew's Seafarers' Mission Church in Gravesend, Kent (2023–2024). Provided free by Gravesend Borough Council, our mission was to showcase local talent, explore opportunities in a changing economy shaped by new technologies and generative AI, and to foster a lasting culture of do-it-yourself and getting involved.

Gravesend's Fourth Portal welcomed thousands of visitors of all ages, hosting events, workshops, and gatherings on technology, the environment, cultural exchange, and art. Highlights included the multi-location Innovation Showcase, which received coverage across the BBC, and the immersive "Drilling for Oil," which drew hundreds from across the southeast. Events with the Port of London Authority, the Spanish galleon El Andalucía, Hypermedia, local artists, and community groups brought a rich diversity of experiences.

Fourth Portal handed the keys of St Andrew's to local brewery Iron Pier (see page 4). The seeds first planted are now beginning to flower as local people continue doing it for themselves. Mission accomplished.

The Fourth Portal would like to thank Gravesend Borough Council for their support, and the residents and businesses of the borough who championed the residency from the outset.



INNOVATION SHOWCASE 2024 OVERVIEW

In November 2024, Fourth Portal presented the one-day Innovation Showcase across shops, restaurants, venues, streets, and churches throughout Gravesend Town Centre. The event brought together local people, artists, programmers, universities from across England, and businesses to explore emerging technologies, AI, coding, robotics, and new economic opportunities. It highlighted pathways for entrepreneurship and stimulated ideas for future business growth, and received extensive coverage on the BBC. The Showcase also revealed the depth of innovative talent within the borough of Gravesend, from programming engineers and designers to environmental thinkers, makers, and creative entrepreneurs.

Supported by Gravesend Borough Council using UK Government funding.



CULTURE REVERB

Culture Reverb is a new system developed by Fourth Portal to capture and connect cultural activity. It creates a living archive of events, artists, venues, towns, businesses, and organisations, making it easier to share memories, discover connections, and preserve local cultural history for the future. By linking people, places, and ideas, it also stimulates new business opportunities and supports entrepreneurship. The Innovation Showcase 2024 was among the first events to be documented through this service.

<https://culturereverb.co.uk>



INNOVATION SHOWCASE 2024 FILM

Ningrui Liu, a filmmaker, artist, and editor from Shanghai, China, travelled to Gravesend to record and document how innovation is being explored and shared in the UK.

Scan the QR code on the left to watch her short film or visit: www.fourthportal.com/gravesend-showcase-2024

