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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST MARKS 40 YEARS

A special exhibition celebrating 40 years of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) opens at The Beaney in Canterbury on Friday 25 March.

There has been a long history of archaeological investigation in the city, and the first formal organisation, the Canterbury Archaeological Society, was established in 1920. Other incarnations then followed, before CAT as it is today was founded on 1 April 1976.

The exhibition illustrates the beginnings of the Trust and charts its development over the years, marking many achievements and discoveries. Projects of local to international significance will be highlighted and some important finds will be on display. CAT's community and educational work is also celebrated.

Canterbury's museums are packed with items discovered during CAT's excavations, including an Anglo-Saxon pendant found in 1982, on permanent show at the Beaney, and used as the logo of the exhibition.

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Director of Canterbury City Council's Museums and Galleries Service, Jo Jones, said: "The Canterbury Archaeological Trust is one of the country's most highly-regarded archaeological units. Its work over the last 40 years has uncovered so much about Canterbury's rich history and we are proud that our museums are the places to visit to see a great deal of this material.

"We're delighted to be celebrating the ongoing and fruitful partnership between Canterbury Museums & Galleries and CAT and expect the exhibition to be very popular."

Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Dr Paul Bennett, said: "Our progress since 1976 has often been precarious, but we have always had the support of the local community, and particularly the Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust, for which we are very grateful.

"It is nice to have this opportunity to reflect on our work. We hope people will find it interesting and uncover some things they didn't know about the city's history."

The exhibition is in The Front Room at The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge between Friday 25 March and Sunday 24 April. Admission is free.

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