



Highlights from the Sussex Kindness Conference 2026

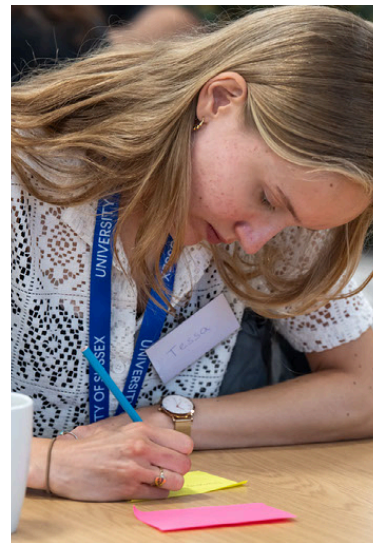
16th June 2026

In June 2026, the Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness (ROK) based at the University of Sussex, hosted its inaugural **Sussex Kindness Conference**, bringing together researchers, students, practitioners, and members of the wider community to explore the role of kindness in our lives and work. The day was filled with inspiring talks, thoughtful discussions, and opportunities to connect, all grounded in a shared commitment to fostering kindness across sectors and settings. Alongside the programme, attendees gathered for informal conversations, capturing moments of reflection, collaboration, and joy throughout the event. These photos reflect not only the content of the conference, but the spirit of connection and generosity that defined the day.

If you'd like to stay connected with our work, hear about future events, or get involved in our growing community, we'd love to hear from you. You can contact us at [**kindness@sussex.ac.uk**](mailto:kindness@sussex.ac.uk) and join our mailing list via our [website](#) to receive updates, opportunities, and the latest insights from the Centre.



A warm and welcoming atmosphere takes shape



Gerrie Hawes introduces the conference vision and invites participants to share their expectations on Post-it notes



Dr Gillian Sandstrom delivers the keynote and overview of Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness, with Gerrie highlighting Gillian's book 'Once Upon a Stranger'





A first panel session explores the power of kindness-driven organisations, featuring (from left to right): Georgina Klovig-Skelton (o3e), Shiv Misra (Kindly of Brighton), Graham Allcott (business consultant and author of KIND), and (joining online) Thom Elliott (Pizza Pilgrims)





Audience Q&A session following panel session with business leaders





The coffee break fosters warmth, connection, and meaningful conversations





Prof Robin Banerjee (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global & Civic Engagement and Founder of the Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness) leads a second panel discussion, engaging academics (from left to right: Prof Kate Cavanagh, Dr. Donna Jessop and Prof Martin Spinelli) as they showcase kindness-themed collaborations beyond the university



Prof Banerjee and Kate Thorpe (Head of Innovation & Business Partnerships) address questions on how businesses can collaborate with academics, including opportunities and Innovate UK funding to draw on.



Kindness Marketplace Exhibition



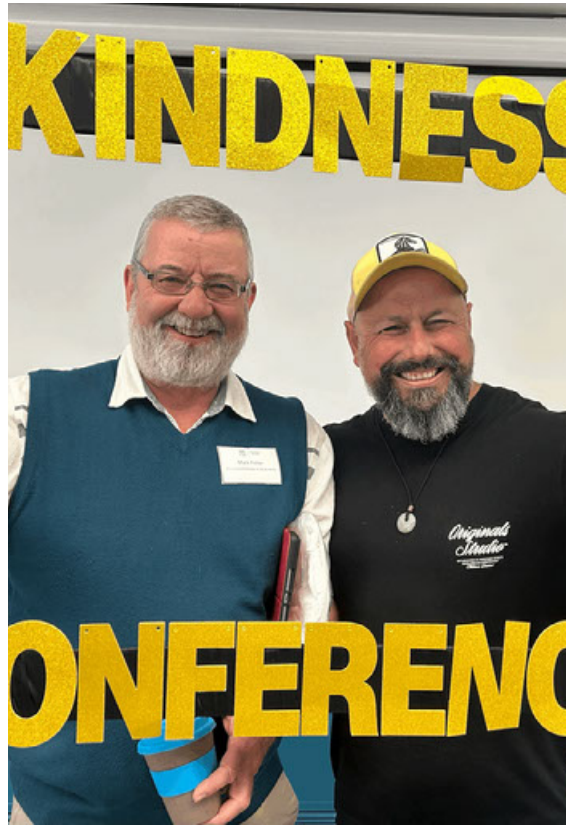


Kindness Marketplace Exhibition



A special thanks to Helen and her team at A Touch of Gentleness for their wonderful support, providing complimentary hand massages





Moments of connection and community as participants capture memorable photos



“In a world where you can be anything, be kind”. Thank you for being part of something meaningful. We can’t wait to celebrate our journey together at Sussex Kindness Conference 2027.

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