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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **North Kent College supports Sporting Heritage Day with a blast from the past**

North Kent College proudly supported National Sporting Heritage Day, which focused on the wealth of sporting heritage found in the UK. It is possibly one of best-kept secrets that netball was first played right here in Dartford in 1895 at the Bergman Österberg Physical Training College, now part of the site of North Kent College. People know the town for the Dartford Crossing and as the place where the Rolling Stones began, but very few know it is the birthplace of Netball.

To help celebrate, the College opened the Österberg Visitor Centre to the public. The public were treated to a tour of the archives and informal discussions with the Bergman Österberg volunteers. They were shown the history of the college and told about the birthplace of Netball.

Jackie Gibbs, Bergman Österberg Union volunteer commented, "We were so excited to join in and help support National Sporting Heritage Day as we wanted to raise awareness of our own Österberg collection as well as other collections worldwide. It was also lovely to welcome everyone who came along to our event, especially our alumni who were particularly interested in seeing the pictures from their school years at the College."

The College thanked everyone involved in making this wonderful event happen and are opening the Österberg Visitor Centre every Wednesday from 11am to 4pm for the public to come along and enjoy.

**ENDS**

For further information please contact Claire Shearwood-Burton [Clareshearwood-burton@northkent.ac.uk](mailto:Clareshearwood-burton@northkent.ac.uk) 01322 629582

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**North Kent College** offer an extensive range of Further Education, Higher Education, Access to Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Part-time courses and Training for Businesses. We provide young people with the next step after their GCSEs as an alternative to A Levels and a route to University or a career. We also have opportunities for people who are looking at studying at an undergraduate level, or who want to change career path or up-skill for career progression.

**OPEN DAYS – OCTOBER 15th – DARTFORD – 3pm – 7:30pm and 17th  
OCTOBER 2019 – GRAVESEND – 3pm – 7:30pm**

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