

Coventry

News...features...plus more about your city...  
your neighbourhood...your services

# citivision

issue 54 | march | 2016

**30 years of reading  
to our hearts'  
content**

**INSIDE  
Students boost  
city economy**

**Driving ahead  
with fostering**

**Including:** news, comments and updates from organisations  
across the city working together to improve life in Coventry





# Are you ready? ✓

Coventry, working together on welfare reform

## If you have never paid Council Tax

**you need to read this!**



Changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme mean from April 2016 if you are of working age you will have to pay at least 15 per cent of your Council Tax. Second Adult Rebate will also be abolished.

Pensioners are not affected by this change.

Check the band of your property and check how much you are likely to pay. For details visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/counciltaxadvice](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/counciltaxadvice)

For details on managing your finance please visit [www.advicebuddy.org](http://www.advicebuddy.org)



• A personal message from Cllr Ann Lucas OBE, Leader, Coventry City Council.

## Young people are our future

There's a lively debate across the city at the moment about students – and what they mean for Coventry.

I don't think you'll find anyone who's not proud of the fact we're home to two of the best universities in the country. But some people are anxious about the fast increasing numbers of young people studying here and the work private developers and the universities are doing to develop city centre accommodation for students.

We've focused on this important topic in this issue of *Citivism*. The facts speak for themselves. New homes for students in the city centre help relieve the pressure on family homes being turned into student homes around Coventry. The developments (none of which are funded by the Council) are seeing old and previously unloved parts of the city centre brought back into use.

And the city centre is already benefitting from the young people here; footfall in the city centre is up (particularly at night) and there's a buzz around places like our great eating places in Cathedral Lanes that we haven't seen in the heart of Coventry for a long time.

Our young people are our future. I'm so proud so many of them have chosen Coventry as the place to study and I hope they'll always have a special place in their hearts for our great city.

You can write to Ann at The Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RR or e-mail her at [ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk)

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Cover story:

Central Library 30th birthday celebrations

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welcome to the march 2016 issue of *citivism*

## A personal message from Ken Sloan, chair of the Coventry Partnership...

There is a lot going on in the city and it is great that the Coventry Ambassadors are still helping to provide a warm welcome to visitors to the city. The scheme is a real legacy from London 2012 and the volunteers involved do an excellent job for the city (page 7).

Elsewhere I notice that the Godiva Festival has got the go-ahead for this summer. It is such a fabulous event and one that attracts people from all kinds of backgrounds.

The free event at the Memorial Park is sure to be a hit alongside other music events at the Ricoh Arena (page 9).

In this month's *Citivism* there is also good news that the city is performing well on a number of key areas including innovation and housing, according to a Centres for City report (page 5).

Despite Coventry absorbing funding cuts it is vital that the city continues to strive to be an attractive place to invest in, and I have seen plenty of signs that it's heading in the right direction.



\* Ken Sloan, chair of the Coventry Partnership.



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# contact us

Call the *Citivism* newsdesk on 024 7683 1075 or write to Newsdesk, Room 27, The Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR, or e-mail [communications@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:communications@coventry.gov.uk)

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# Council warns of budget threat

**The Council is set to increase council tax for most Coventry residents by around 80p a week - to help pay for the increasing cost of adult social care.**

As Citivision went to press, a budget report proposing a council tax increase of 3.9 per cent, was set to be debated by councillors (on 23 February).

Government funding for the Council has been slashed by 45 per cent since 2010, reducing the Council's grant for key services like social care, refuse collections

and highways maintenance to £122million from last year's grant of £137million.

Now Cllr Damian Gannon, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, has warned that although savings through cutting the number of senior officers was saving around £2million a year and working more efficiently had saved around £13million this year frontline services would be at increasing risk in future years.

He said: "For a number of years we have kept council tax as low as

we can manage while focusing on protecting the frontline services that we know people really value.

"The government have refused to provide additional grants to fund the rising cost of social care, instead they want councils to levy an extra tax on residents. So the Council has had no choice but to accept the social care precept due to the pressures that the service in Coventry is facing.

"This will cost residents 40p more per week than the 1.9% rise the Council originally anticipated making.

"Half of the rise in this year's council tax – that's 40p a week – will be used to partially offset these costs, but it simply won't be enough in the future.

"We know how important our frontline services are to residents but over the coming year we will need to work with people to find new answers to the challenges we face, because the figures don't add up and it's clear the government will continue to cut our funding."

For details on council tax please visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/counciltax)

## 70,000 sign up to Direct Debit



■ Prize winner, Mrs Williams with finance manager Jane Murphy.

Paying by Direct Debit has reaped rewards for one lucky council tax payer.

Mrs Williams, 82, from Willenhall, had her council tax paid for a year after being randomly chosen in a Council prize draw.

She said: "It was a real surprise when I got the call. In fact, at first I thought it was a scam!"

"I've paid my council tax by Direct Debit for years. It's much easier for me."

Councillor Damian Gannon, Cabinet Member for Strategic

Finance and Resources, added: "council tax bills will be dropping through everyone's doors in the next few weeks and it's an ideal time for people to think about how they pay and switch to Direct Debit.

"As well as being a secure and quick way to pay, you never need to worry about remembering to pay your bill again or waste time waiting in queues."

Sign up at [www.coventry.gov.uk/paycounciltax](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/paycounciltax) and join more than 70,000 people who already pay by Direct Debit.

## Government cuts hit council tax support

Government grants cuts mean that Coventry will be reducing the amount it pays out in council tax support from 1 April to all working age residents.

The changes will affect more than 20,000 people who will have to pay 15 per cent of their council tax bill. Until now Coventry has provided full council tax benefit support to people on a low income.

All working age residents will

receive their council tax bill in March telling them how much they have to pay.

Second adult rebate will also be stopped as a result of the changes.

However, pensioners are not affected by the changes.

For details of a range of advice about council tax, easier ways to pay online and information if you are having difficulty paying your bill go to [www.coventry.gov.uk/counciltaxadvice](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/counciltaxadvice)

## In with the IT crowd

Coventry University Vice-Chancellor John Latham's contribution to developing, promoting and teaching IT has been recognised with a major accolade from one of the computing industry's leading bodies.

John has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship from BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, for his services to the industry.

He graduated with an honours degree in computer science at

the then Coventry Polytechnic in 1983 and, following a brief stint in the telecommunications industry, returned to his place of study as a lecturer in the same subject.

In the last year the university, was named 'Modern University of the Year' for the third time by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide and won the title of 'University of the Year' at the Times Higher Education (THE) 2015 Awards.



■ Coventry University Vice-Chancellor John Latham receives his Honorary Fellowship from Alan Chantler of BCS.

## Ready, set, go for half marathon

### DECATHLON Coventry's half marathon

As Citivision went to press final preparations were well underway for the Coventry half marathon.

A record breaking number of runners are due to take a loop of the city centre on closed roads before a gradual climb out of the city towards Radford and through Allesley. The final section of the route takes runners downhill in to the city centre and back to where they started at Millennium Place.

If you are reading this magazine before the 28 February check out where the road closures and diversions are likely to be! Visit [www.coventryhalf.com](http://www.coventryhalf.com) for details.

## Outlook bright for top four city

**Coventry has come fourth in a table for innovation behind Cambridge, Aberdeen and Aldershot, with 17.5 patents granted per 100,000 of population in 2014.**

The Centre for Cities Annual Outlook report is a health check report into 63 cities across the UK.

It reveals Coventry's performance in a number of key areas, from housing to businesses and broadband to being environmentally friendly. It also gives a snapshot of the make-up of the city's population.

The city was named in the

top 10 cities for population growth - eighth of the 63 cities. The population rose to 337,400.

The city again made the top 10 for the highest rise in housing stock, with a rise of 1,100 homes to 135,870, putting it in ninth place.

Cllr Abdul Khan, Deputy Leader of the City Council, said: "We are a city that is growing. Attracting interest from developers and businesses and as a Council we are committed to delivering quality jobs for local people."

To see the full report, visit [www.centreforcities.org](http://www.centreforcities.org)

## River plan for Burges gets funding backing

The Council has received support for a Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage grant, which will enable work to progress plans for the regeneration of The Burges.

Development funding of £172,000 has been awarded to aid the Council's bid for a full £1.9 million grant at a later date.

The project will see the Council, Trust and local businesses working together to restore the historic street frontages and open up the River Sherbourne in Palmer Lane.

The scheme will also result in the creation of a new square with restaurants and cafés. It will turn the river into an asset for local residents and visitors to the city.

Cllr Kevin Maton, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment, said: "The site has been vacant and under-developed for many years but these plans - aided by HLF Townscape Heritage grant funding - will enable us to completely transform this area and will complement the work at the nearby Transport Museum and Grammar School."

Ian Harrabin, Chairman of Historic Coventry Trust, said it was no coincidence that the partnership has secured the funding following the success at Far Gosford Street. He said: "We hope to do even better here."



■ Artist impression of the Burges

## Businesses central to multi-million pound funding deal

Coventry and Warwickshire businesses have been told that their interests will be at the "centre of the action" as a combined authority moves towards reality.

Around 80 businesses from across the area were brought up to speed on the devolution powers offered by the creation of a West Midlands Combined Authority and were able to voice issues and concerns.

Jonathan Browning, Chairman of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said it was vital that businesses understood what devolution would mean for Coventry and Warwickshire, both in terms of investment that could be attracted and how its governance could impact on commerce.

He said: "It is the largest devolution deal done to date and will bring £36.5 million per year.



■ From the left, Andy Gibb (Ricoh Arena), Martin Yardley (CWLEP), Cllr Ann Lucas (Coventry City Council), Sean Farnell (Chamber and FSB) and Jonathan Browning (CWLEP).

## I save time and do it online

You can view, apply and tell us about changes to your Council Tax account online at [www.coventry.gov.uk/myaccount](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/myaccount)





# Tree-mendous support for charities

**Coventry's Tree Wardens have raised over £900 by gathering mistletoe found on Council-owned trees to raise money for the Lord Mayor's charities.**

Lord Mayor, Councillor Michael Hammon, said: "I'm so grateful to the tree wardens who have done such a wonderful thing to support my charities. They work so hard all year round."

The tree wardens are part of the Coventry Tree Warden Network, which is made up of over 80 volunteers who are passionate about Coventry's trees.

Coventry Tree Warden Network is open to volunteers and anyone who wishes to volunteer does not need to be an expert in trees to join.

Information can be found at [www.ctwn.org.uk](http://www.ctwn.org.uk)

**Did you know...**  
a single 30 metre tall mature tree can absorb as much as 22.7kg of carbon dioxide in a year.

■ Lord Mayor, Cllr Michael Hammon with the Council's tree wardens.



## Summer opening for retirement village



■ Village Manager Mary and future resident Marie (also right) look at the Village model.

The first residents are due to move in to Earlsdon Park Village this July, a retirement village being built by The ExtraCare Charitable Trust, on Albany Road in Earlsdon.

Village Manager Mary Higginson said: "The views are fantastic! From the top floor you can see the three spires of Coventry. I think it's going to be a real talking point."

The 262-home Village, a partnership with Coventry City Council, will be home to over 350 local older residents.

A host of social and leisure facilities, including a gym, library and IT suite, hair and beauty salon

and greenhouse, will be available to residents, as well as local older people as part of the Village

*'The views are fantastic! From the top floor you can see the three spires of Coventry.'*

Friends club.

Care will also be available for residents, delivered by ExtraCare's staff team.

Prospective residents are already visiting other ExtraCare Villages and talking about volunteering, setting up a Village newsletter and meeting up regularly. Friends meetings, coffee

mornings and cheese and wine evenings are taking place regularly in the lead up to the Village opening. Please phone 024 7771 0370 for more information.

The Village marketing suite is open from Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm. For more information, phone 024 7771 0370, or visit [www.earlsdonparkvillage.co.uk](http://www.earlsdonparkvillage.co.uk)



## Region's back national armed forces pledge



Communities in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire are backing a nationwide pledge to provide help and support to people who have served in the armed forces.

Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council plus Armed Forces Charities and local armed forces have come together to put in place the Armed Forces Community Covenant across the region.

The local Community Covenant offers extra support to injured servicemen and women and bereaved families, where appropriate.

For more details go to [www.coventrypartnership.com/armedforcescovenant](http://www.coventrypartnership.com/armedforcescovenant) where information on the covenant is available including a newsletter.

To get involved, please e-mail [afcc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:afcc@warwickshire.gov.uk) with your contact details and a brief description of how you would like to contribute.



Coventry Ambassadors making new friends.



## Volunteers put city in the spotlight

**Dozens of Coventry Ambassadors attended a celebration event at St Mary's Guildhall for volunteering at events throughout 2015.**

Coventry Ambassadors supported 23 events for over 27000 volunteer hours.

The programme has supported around 70 events since it was launched in the summer of 2012 as the host city volunteer programme for the Olympic Games in London.

Over the past year, ambassadors have supported the Wasps' match days. They also volunteered at the 75th Anniversary of the Blitz, playing an

important role in showcasing the city.

Cllr Faye Abbott, Cabinet Member, Community Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprise, said: "The volunteers have made a big impression from day one. It is a valuable legacy from the Olympic Games and something that we should all feel very proud of."

Coventry Ambassadors is managed and sustained by EnV (Coventry) C.I.C a registered Community Interest Company (C.I.C).

Find out more about the Coventry Ambassadors at [www.env.uk.com](http://www.env.uk.com)

## Get fit, have fun for free

A new project providing fitness and physical activity sessions for women is starting in Coventry. 'In it Together' is a three year project funded by Sport England with the support of Coventry City Council to provide activity sessions for local women, at no cost.

The project is delivered by Sky Blues in the Community at four community facilities. There are currently nine different sessions. All sessions encourage women to have fun and socialise whilst getting active together.

Venues are John White Community Centre, Daimler Green Community Centre,

St Augustine's Sport Centre and Tile Hill Wood Community facilities. To find out more visit [www.sbitc.org/womens-fitness](http://www.sbitc.org/womens-fitness), 'Follow' the project on Twitter: @IIT\_Cov or 'Like' the 'In It Together - Coventry' Page on Facebook. The project will also take place in Coventry secondary schools for teenage girls aged 13-19.

A free 10 week programme of fun fitness and sporting activities will include information on a range of health and lifestyle related topics.

For further information, please contact Kim Dougherty at [kim.dougherty@ccfc.co.uk](mailto:kim.dougherty@ccfc.co.uk) or on 024 7678 6314.

## Doc swaps four wheels for two

A consultant at University Hospital has got the cycling bug, thanks to Cycle Coventry.

Dr Soma Mukherjee (pictured) took advantage of free cycle training and loan of a bike and has now started cycling to work instead of using her car.

Dr Mukherjee, said:

"I hadn't ridden a bike since school so I wasn't sure if I'd be able to ride it. I started cycling to work two or three times a week. I found it worked out really well, even on wet days. I then applied for a bike through the Cycle to Work Scheme. I'm happy to cycle, it's a great way to get fit."

A University Hospital Coventry staff travel survey shows that cycling has doubled from 5% to 10% of commuting trips by staff. Staff and visitors are also benefitting from a new crossing over Ansty Road which connects the hospital to the traffic free Sowe Valley cycling and walking route from Henley College.



Free public cycle training courses, from beginners to advanced, take place every weekend, with indoor courses for beginners and also outdoor courses to gain road confidence. [www.coventry.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/cycling)

Look good / Feel good / Have fun /  
Make friends / Make time for you /  
Be part of something / We're...

# in it together.

**Fitness and activity sessions for adult women in Coventry during 2016.**

Come with friends, meet new people and try out different activities together. **No cost. No commitment. No pressure!**

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**FREE**

Like @IIT\_Cov @IIT\_Cov in it together - Coventry SKY BLUES in the COMMUNITY THIS GIRL CAN PARTNERED BY SPORT ENGLAND

# Ring in the changes

■ Cllr David Kershaw joins pupils Maria, Rana and Head Teacher Jayne McHale.



The official opening of the new Edgewick Community Primary School brought locals and ex-pupils back to the school.

Among the guests was a 91 year old gentleman who attended the original school back in 1925.

Headteacher Jayne McHale said: "I want to say a big thank you to all partners involved; the final outcome is utterly breathtaking. This has not only made a positive

"Schools in Coventry are benefiting from the ongoing investment, expansion and improvement programmes by the Council"

impact on the Foleshill Road already, but more importantly enables us to give our children and their parents the educational opportunities and support that they so deserve."

Maria, the oldest pupil and Rana, the youngest, shared

the honour of ringing the original Victorian school bell to mark the official opening.

Among the attendees at the opening was Cllr David Kershaw, Cabinet Member for Education. He said: "Schools in Coventry are benefiting from the ongoing investment, expansion and improvement programmes by the Council and Edgewick Community Primary School is a shining example of what can be achieved."

## Music champ scoops award

Museum Curator/Director and City Music journalist, Pete Chambers (pictured) is to be awarded a BEM (British Empire Medal), for "Volunteering Services to Coventry Music."

He was part of the Covaid team that raised thousands in 1985 for East Africa. He has written six books about Coventry music, and his Backbeat music column in The Coventry Telegraph celebrates its 11th year this month.

Pete was responsible for the creation of The Coventry Walk of Stars, Coventry's 2-Tone Trail and The award winning Coventry Music Museum, where he volunteers unpaid four days a week from Thursday to Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Pete said he was thrilled. He said: "I never dreamed that one day I would be on the Honours List."



## Birthday wishes for HRH and friends

A right Royal celebration is being planned in April when some of the city's senior citizens will be invited to a party marking Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday.

HM Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate her own 90th birthday on 21 April and to show Coventry's support the Lord Mayor, Councillor Michael Hammon is inviting anyone who marks their 90th birthday in the year 2016 to a special party on the afternoon of her birthday.

The event will include afternoon tea and musical entertainment. Venue still to be confirmed.

If you, a family member or friend will be the grand age of 90 in 2016 why not get in touch and arrange to come along.

To request a free ticket e-mail [lord.mayor@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:lord.mayor@coventry.gov.uk) or call 024 7683 3100.

## 100 foster carers target

The drive for more Council foster carers has continued with the launch of advertising panels across Council vehicles.

John Gregg, Director of Children's Services and Councillor Ed Ruane, Cabinet Member for Children's Services took to the wheel at Whitley Depot to see the advertising first hand.

Cllr Ed Ruane said: "Recruiting more foster carers is a top priority for the Council and I would urge anyone who is interested in fostering to get in touch. We have made significant investment into our fostering service, including improved support, fees and allowances so that fostering for Coventry City Council can be a viable option for many more people."



■ John Gregg, Director of Children's Services with Cllr Ed Ruane

The advertising is part of the on-going Coventry City Council campaign to recruit 100 more foster carers over the next two years.

Anyone interested in finding out

more, can give the friendly team a call on 024 7683 2828, visit the website [www.coventry.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/fostering), 'Like' Adopt and Foster for Coventry on Facebook or follow @adoptfosterccc on Twitter.



# City's in the groove again

Coventry is set to host a series of music events this spring and summer as it welcomes musicians from across the globe. With the Godiva Festival back in business the Ricoh Arena will also be hosting two massive music events in the form of MTV crashes and the Coventry Mela.

## Godiva Festival to return

The UK's biggest free family music festival will again return to the War Memorial Park from 1-3 July, after it recorded a record-breaking 141,000 visitors in 2015.

With the city building its bid to become the UK City of Culture in 2021, the festival will showcase the city's cultural and arts scene. Cllr Abdul Khan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Events, said: "The festival brings a great profile to Coventry. We estimate that the total economic impact from the event last year was around £1.7million.

"29% of people who attended in 2015 were from

outside the city.

"We continue to be very keen on discussing how partners and other organisations can come on board with us to continue to grow the event."

Any businesses or potential sponsors looking to be part of the event can get in touch on 024 7683 2466.

For more details visit [www.godivafestival.com](http://www.godivafestival.com) follow @godivafestival on Twitter, or see the event's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/godivafestival](http://www.facebook.com/godivafestival) to get the latest news first.



## Global superstar's summer gig

Superstar Rhianna will play at the Ricoh Arena this summer as part of her 2016 UK tour. The singer has sold 54 million albums and 210 million digital tracks. Rhianna will be

supported by The Weeknd and Big Sean on Tuesday 14 June.

For details visit [www.ricoharena.com/entertainment/Rhianna](http://www.ricoharena.com/entertainment/Rhianna)



## MTV Crashes Coventry

MTV will be hosting a live music event on 27-28 May at the Ricoh Arena. MTV Crashes Coventry will be staged over the late May Bank Holiday weekend as part of a three-year agreement between MTV UK and the Ricoh Arena.

Cllr Ann Lucas, Leader of Coventry City Council, said the city has a great track record of delivering high quality events. She said: "We'll give everyone a really warm welcome and make it a very special weekend for everyone who's involved."

MTV Crashes Coventry is one

of two confirmed MTV Crashes events to be staged this year and will be followed later in the year by Plymouth. According to Plymouth's local council last year MTV Crashes Plymouth added £3.5 million to the city's economy and was seen across 40 countries globally.

A dedicated MTV Crashes Coventry microsite is available at [www.mtv.co.uk](http://www.mtv.co.uk) and tickets will be available on [www.ricoharena.com](http://www.ricoharena.com)

It will be the first time an MTV Crashes event has been staged in an arena.

## Bollywood favourite at the Ricoh Arena

A global singing superstar will headline the new Mela Coventry, a two-day South Asian cultural festival, at the Ricoh Arena in August.

Bollywood favourite Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, who sells out shows across the world, will headline the Mela Coventry and take centre stage in a concert on Friday 12 August.

Mela Coventry will include Bhangra dance classes, fashion shows, a South Asian lifestyle exhibition, street food and a UK premiere of a latest Bollywood film.

On Saturday 13 August an evening of Bhangra music and

dancing in association with Touch FM will include top Bhangra acts Abrar Ul Haq, Shazia Mansoor, Sukshinder Shinda, Malkit Singh, The Legends Band and Dhol Drummers.

The Mela Dance School will host a series of free lessons in Bhangra and Bollywood dancing; and for the latest fashions and trends, you can visit the 'Mahal' for a free South Asian lifestyle exhibition featuring around 25 Midlands-based retailers and manufacturers and showcasing three Mela fashion shows on a specially constructed catwalk.

Register for tickets at [www.ricoharena.com](http://www.ricoharena.com)





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*"I am so excited about Earlsdon Park Village and can't wait to move in."*

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 EarlsdonPark





# The truth about prepayment meters

One in seven UK households rely on prepayment gas and electricity meters.

They work a bit like a pay as you go mobile phone - you pay in advance for your gas and electricity using a card or a key. In Coventry about 50,000 people use prepayment meters. The energy supplied through prepayment meters generally costs more and these meters sometimes have a bad reputation because of the myths that surround them. Councillor

Kevin Maton, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment said, "Prepayment meters have their uses and for lots of people they work well. But just like any energy user,

people need to shop around and see if they can switch tariff or supplier to make sure they are getting the best deal."

No one should have to make a choice between heating or eating – but for some this is a reality – so check out our myth buster below.



## Myth Buster

**Myth** You can't switch energy providers if you're on a prepayment meter

**Busted** Nearly every supplier has at least one prepayment tariff available, and they are listed on comparison sites

## Myth Buster

**Myth** You can't switch supplier if you are in debt with your current supplier

**Busted** If you owe less than £500 on gas and £500 on electricity, you can switch and the debt travels with you to the new supplier

## Myth Buster

**Myth** If you're a tenant, you can't switch supplier

**Busted** As a tenant you have the same right to switch energy supplier as anyone else - unless you have a specific contract with your landlord that they handle your gas and electricity and you pay them

## Myth Buster

**Myth** If you've got a prepayment meter you can't get it removed

**Busted** You can ask your supplier to install a standard meter (some suppliers may charge for this, and some require a credit check)

## Myth Buster

**Myth** If you move house, you need to use the existing supplier which is serving the property

**Busted** There's nothing to stop you switching. When you first move in you will automatically be put on one of the most expensive tariffs available, so you should look for a better deal with the existing supplier or find a new supplier as soon as possible. Also, it's worth contacting the supplier to check you aren't paying off a previous tenant's debt

For more information please go to [www.coventry.gov.uk/energymatters](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/energymatters) or contact the Affordable Warmth Team on 024 7683 2330. If you're a Whitefriars tenant you can get information by calling 0300 7906 533 or help with getting a better energy tariff on 0333 240 6024.

# Students boost city economy

**Coventry's economy is set to be further boosted by the continuing growth and success of the city's two universities over the next few years.**

By 2020 Coventry University will be worth £250million a year to the city's economy – rising from £150million in 2014.

And Cllr Kevin Maton, the Council's Cabinet Member responsible for regeneration says many of the community projects students are involved in across Coventry are making a real difference to life in the city.

More than 1,200 students currently volunteer with the 80 community partners registered with the students' union – including Coventry Central Foodbank, Coventry Guide Dogs and Gen2Gen which offers elderly people support with using computers and getting online. And fashion students run a

pop-up shop in Coventry selling redesigned, impounded counterfeit clothes whose proceeds go to the Coventry Cyrenians charity to help homeless and vulnerably housed people.

*'The difference students are making to the vibrancy around the city centre is plain to see'*

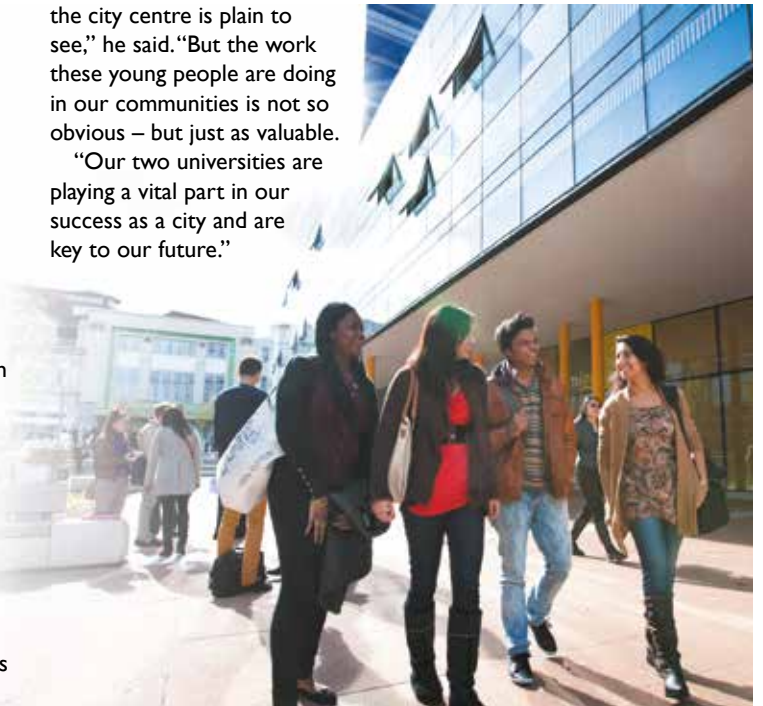
Students are also working with the British Heart Foundation, Coventry City Council and local resident groups on a recycling initiative which has seen them donate over 2,000 charity bags worth £30,000.

Criminology, law and order and policing students at Coventry University College are volunteering as special constables for West Midlands police as part of a unique, UK-first initiative.

"The difference students are making to the vibrancy around

the city centre is plain to see," he said. "But the work these young people are doing in our communities is not so obvious – but just as valuable.

"Our two universities are playing a vital part in our success as a city and are key to our future."



Check out our infographic (opposite) to see the benefits students are bringing to the city. → → →

## Road schemes shaping up

Work to transform Coventry City Centre has seen a number of key roads improved. Changes to the road layouts, along with new paving and landscaped areas, have been made in Lidice Place, Belgrade Plaza and on Fairfax Street around Pool Meadow Bus Station and Whittle Arch.

Work on all of these areas is now coming to a close, with more than £6.7million of external and

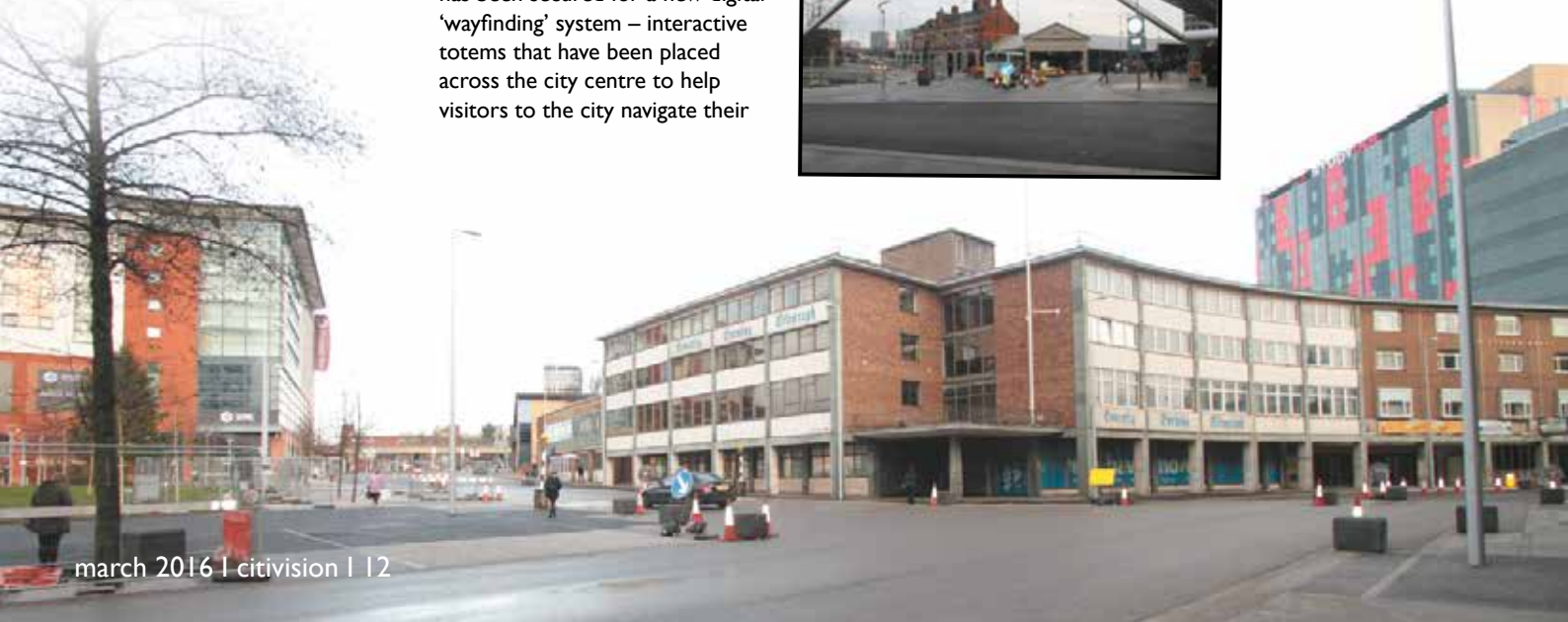
private funding used to make the improvements possible.

Further improvement schemes included work around the entrance to Fargo Village and the repair and replacement of many of the old street cobbles in Hill Top, Priory Street, St Mary's Street and the areas around Holy Trinity Church and the Cathedral Ruins.

A further £2million in funding has been secured for a new digital 'wayfinding' system – interactive totems that have been placed across the city centre to help visitors to the city navigate their

way – and electronic signage on the Ring Road.

■ Top right clockwise, Lidice Place, Whittle Arch and Belgrade Plaza







# Coventry

a proud university city

**260,000  
volunteer  
hours**

Students are good neighbours, from helping at sports clubs to litter picking, tree-planting and working with the Foodbank.

**5,000  
student  
rooms**

Every five student rooms built in the city centre free up a family home in our local communities.

**1,000 students =  
£5 million spend**

Students spend their cash in local shops, bars, restaurants and leisure facilities.

**50,000  
students**

enrolled at our universities.

**£100  
million  
a year**

Our two universities are investing in impressive new builds, including sports centres, a new library, engineering building and student centre.

**Footfall up 20%**

More people are using the city centre in the evening, supporting shops, restaurants and bars.

**Over  
£400  
million**

The universities' positive economic impact on the city.

**£200 million  
regeneration**

The Sorting Office, Belgrade Plaza, Gosford Street and Hales Street had been derelict or vacant sites for many years.

# New centre for healthier pregnancies

A new mum who almost gave up hope of having a baby after suffering three miscarriages has welcomed news that the largest research centre into the cause of early miscarriage will be in Coventry.

Doctors, researchers and their teams from University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust and the University of Warwick have been selected to be partners in The National Early Miscarriage Centre funded by the leading pregnancy charity, Tommy's. It will be the largest of its kind in Europe.

The National Early Miscarriage Centre will help patients like new mum Nicola from Nuneaton who suffered the heartbreak of losing three pregnancies in just 18 months. Nicola took part in a ground-breaking research trial to test a new medication which could help her to have a healthy pregnancy.

Nine months later, in June 2015 Nicola and her husband Ryan welcomed baby Isabella to the world.

It is hoped that thousands more women, just like Nicola who suffer from early miscarriage, will benefit from the world class research taking place in Coventry, including new trials like scratching the lining of a woman's womb to help improve the chances of embryos implanting.

There are approximately 250,000 miscarriages every year, with about one in three women experiencing recurrent miscarriages.

The research centre, which will open on 1 April 2016, will have three sites - at University Hospital in Coventry, University of Birmingham and Imperial College, London.



■ Nicola with baby Isabella and the research team.

## Streets ahead

A Street Triage scheme is proving a success a year after being introduced in Coventry.

The Triage scheme involves trained mental health professionals working with police officers in the city, as a first-line response. If the police are called to an incident where a person is suicidal or self-harming, creating a disturbance or upsetting others but has not committed an actual crime, they can ask the mental health professional to conduct a rapid

needs assessment and direct the individual to the most appropriate source of help.

In its first year the service has seen and referred over 1,000 people, of which 200 have been referred into mental health services for the first time.

In addition, over 120 have been prevented from being detained by the police under the Mental Health Act and over 160 have also been diverted from Accident and Emergency (A&E), by ensuring they are provided with more appropriate mental health care and support.



■ The Street Triage Team.

## Award for baby-friendly trust

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust has been awarded the prestigious Baby Friendly Award and is the latest UK health care facility to win international recognition from Unicef.

The Trust joined with Unicef

UK's Baby Friendly Initiative to increase breastfeeding rates and to improve care for all mothers in Coventry.

The Baby Friendly Initiative, set up by Unicef and the World Health Organisation, provides a practical and effective way for health services

to improve the care provided for all mothers and babies.

In the UK, the initiative works with UK public services to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding and to strengthen mother-baby and family relationships.



■ Coventry Breastfeeding team.



# Are you proud to be a quitter?

There are lots of reasons why it's a good idea to stop smoking. And even though quitting won't be the easiest thing you'll do, it will definitely be up there with the best.

Smokers come from all walks of life, each with their own reasons for wanting to quit. For some, it's to be healthier and fitter. For others, it's more about how their smoking affects the people around them – their family and little ones. And for lots, it's the thought of all that money going up in smoke. Whatever your reason, think carefully about your motivation and, during

the tough times, remind yourself why you're doing it.

At Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, you can find free help and support to quit. Just call 0300 200 0011 to start your stop smoking journey today or visit [www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/CoventryStopSmoking](http://www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/CoventryStopSmoking)



## Sweet advice for families

This spring, a new Change4Life campaign is encouraging families to get 'Sugar Smart' and take control of the amount of sugar they consume. Primary school teachers across the region will highlight to children how much sugar is in everyday food and drink, with five million Sugar Smart packs being given away to primary age children and their families via schools, local authorities and retailers.

A new 'Sugar Smart app' has also been launched as part of this campaign. This works by scanning the barcode of products, revealing the amount of total sugar they contain in cubes and grams. For details search Change4life.

## Getting active in the workplace

Workplaces on the Move is a new Public Health funded programme being delivered by Groundwork West Midlands which aims to get the Coventry workforce burning an extra 20 million calories by leading more active lifestyles.

Groundwork West Midlands were joined by representatives from Aviva Premiership rugby team Wasps in Broadgate Square to encourage people to sign up.

Craig Green, Healthy Lifestyles Project Co-ordinator, said: "By working with Coventry businesses we hope to encourage their employees to move more and benefit from a healthier lifestyle."

"Since the programme started we have already signed up 10 organisations and hope that the numbers continue to grow. Organisations that sign up can take advantage of lots of support."

Physical inactivity has been linked to an increased risk of a range of health conditions including, coronary heart disease, stroke, osteoporosis, cancer, type 2 diabetes and mental health problems.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, said: "People spend a lot of their time at work and if they are in an office that can often mean a lot of time sitting down and being inactive."

"Evidence shows that a more active workforce can improve employees wellbeing, reduce stress levels, reduce absenteeism and improve productivity."



■ Cllr Kamran Caan with Aviva Premiership Wasps rugby staff.

For more details or to sign up to Workplaces on the Move visit [www.workplacesonthemove.co.uk](http://www.workplacesonthemove.co.uk)

follow @WOTMCov on Twitter email [Wotm@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Wotm@groundwork.org.uk) or call 024 7658 2259.

## Queens win 'Castle' award

The lung cancer nursing team at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust is celebrating after being named 'Lung Cancer Nurse Team of the Year 2015' by the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

The team scooped the prize after being put forward by their patients and their carers.

There were over 80 nominations received from across the UK.

The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, created in honour of the former "Recordbreakers" presenter, raises funds for lung cancer research as well as providing support to families.

As well as the trophy, the

team was awarded prize money of £500 which it intends to use to buy an information trolley and some nebuliser machines that are provided to patients in their own home.

■ L-R: Lindsey Fitzpatrick and Dawn Beaty, Macmillan Lung Cancer Nurse Specialists, and Nicola Jackson, Lung Cancer Nurse Specialist



## Signing up for 'Cancer United'

Local cancer support group, 'Cancer United', has announced meeting dates and a change of time for 2016.

The monthly support group run by University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust has launched its schedule for next year, and following feedback the group's regular meeting time has changed to 10.30am.

Each session features a different guest speaker and some of the speakers scheduled for 2016 include UHCW's chemotherapy team and pain management nurses, as well as Macmillan community nurses

The group will meet in the Faith Centre at University Hospital in Coventry at 10.30am on the following dates:

- Wednesday 2 March
- Wednesday 6 April
- Wednesday 4 May
- Wednesday 1 June

The group provide extra emotional and practical support to people living with, or recently diagnosed with, cancer.

Free parking and refreshments are provided.

For more information, please contact Deborah Smith, Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Manager, on 024 7696 6052 or [deborah.smith3@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:deborah.smith3@uhcw.nhs.uk).

# New chapter for city centre library

**Library users and staff at Central Library have been celebrating the venue's 30th birthday. Dozens of people of all ages gathered together at the Coventry venue to reminisce about their memories of the building.**

Rachel Speake and her son (see picture on front page) were among visitors who stopped by to enjoy a slice of cake to mark the occasion.

The iconic building in Smithford Way and former site of the famous Locarno and Tiffany's has been offering people the chance

for a 'behind the scenes' tour to tread in the footsteps of Led Zeppelin and Madness as they prepared to rock the city.

Rachel said: "It is a great place, and I know lots of people that I talk to have fond memories of Central Library over the years."

Coventry's Central Library welcomes more than 1,300 visitors a day and is open seven days a week. It also has 48 computers that are available for people to use for free for two hours a day.

Find out what's on at [www.coventry.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/libraries)



■ Cllr Ann Lucas joins staff and library visitors for the 30th birthday celebrations.

## Robbery rates tumble

Robbery rates in Coventry have fallen in the last year as a crackdown on organised crime nets offenders and gang members.

Latest figures show a near 16 per cent reduction in robbery - including armed shop attacks - with 76 fewer incidents since last April compared to the same period a year ago.

The reduction has coincided with the launch of Operation Blue Steel. #OpBlueSteel sees police and partner organisations in Coventry increasing the pressure on crime groups and has seen a wave of warrants at addresses linked to prolific crooks and

several robbers handed lengthy prison sentences.

Key to Blue Steel's success are partnership meetings bringing together agencies like the Council, housing providers, Revenue and Customs, Trading Standards, the Dept for Work and Pensions, probation and DVLA to share detailed intelligence on suspects.

West Midlands Police say that between 1 April 2015 and 8 February 2016 there were 404 reported robberies in Coventry - that's down from 480 over the same time period 12 months earlier.

## Crime stopping student advice

West Midlands Police have been reminding students across the region of protecting their belongings, whether they live on campus or in a residential property.

Among the items often targeted by criminals are phones, tablets and laptops.

- If possible keep your phone out of sight in public areas
- Ensure your phone is password/PIN protected
- Don't leave your phone on tables or other places where someone could easily pick it up

- Don't let strangers use your phone. If it is an emergency, call the emergency services on their behalf
  - Stay alert when using your phone
  - If your phone is stolen, call your network or 08701 123 123 to get your phone blocked
  - Postcode your phone using a UV pen and register it on the national database [immobilise.com](http://immobilise.com). This means it will be easier to return your phone to you if it is stolen
- For a range of safety advice visit [www.west-midlands.police.uk](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk)

## Celebrating Women's Day

Coventry will be recognising the efforts of women when it hosts a week of activities for International Women's Week, 4 March – 13 March.

It's a great opportunity to celebrate the contribution of women and girls in every sphere of

human endeavour.

Any schools that are planning to do anything for International Women's Week or if you have photos of your event that you'd like to share on the Facebook page, Twitter or website get in contact via [www.covwomensweek.org](http://www.covwomensweek.org)

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PRIDE of  
COVENTRY  
& WARWICKSHIRE  
AWARDS 2016

In association with



# TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Join our **glamorous** host **Emma Jesson** and Mr Coventry himself, **JD** for a star-studded night where we celebrate the **unsung heroes** of our **community**.

Tickets on sale at the **Belgrade Theatre** – <http://www.belgrade.co.uk/whats-on/>

Tickets are **£20**  
with a **£2 donation** going to



Wills Tumor Charity UK  
www.bethamyswish.co.uk



In Partnership with





# Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

## Spring Exhibitions

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR**

5 February – 10 April 2016  
Free



**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

Wildlife Photographer of the Year is developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London

### DEGAS' DANCERS A Courtauld Masterpiece

11 March – 19 June 2016  
Free



**THE COURTAULD GALLERY**

### New Art West Midlands 2016

26 February – 24 April 2016  
Free



[www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)



**TRACTORS**  
from **FACTORY** to **field**

**26 MARCH – 19 SEPTEMBER**  
COME AND DISCOVER THE WORLD OF TRACTORS,  
*the unsung heroes of the farm!*  
**Admission free**

A new exhibition at **COVENTRY Transport MUSEUM**

[www.transport-museum.com](http://www.transport-museum.com)  
Millennium Place, Hales Street, Coventry, CV1 1JD



# Home sweet home

**The Council is looking for people to share their lives and support adults with care and support needs.**

Our Shared Lives scheme, in partnership with Warwickshire and Solihull Councils, centres on people sharing their home, family and community life with adults who need extra support. This could be people with learning difficulties, autism, mental health issues, long term health conditions or older people.

More than 60 people in Coventry are already being helped to live independent and fulfilling lives thanks to the scheme.

Councillor Joe Clifford, Deputy Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, said:

"Our Shared Lives carers do an amazing job.

"Being part of a family and the local community makes a huge difference. It helps people become independent, but also makes sure they're supported when they need



■ L-R: Kathryn Ross, Shared Lives Officer, Cllrs Jose Compton and Joe Clifford

it most.

"If you are caring, patient, open to learning new skills and have a home that could welcome someone needing support to live with you then please get in touch with us."

Councillor Jose Compton, Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, said, "I'm delighted that an official launch is here, following on

from the huge success of Shared Lives in Coventry. Shared Lives is a fantastic service, focusing solely on supportive carers sharing their homes, family and community life as well as giving support to adults that need it the most.

Find out more about the scheme and how you could get involved at [www.coventry.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/sharedlives) or call Jacqui Kelly on 024 7678 5511.

## Stage set for Coventry actors

This Spring BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Radio are staging a production of *Romeo and Juliet* and they are recruiting the full cast from Coventry residents.

The April performance will mark Shakespeare's birthday. Anyone with a talent for the theatre can get in touch by emailing [ShakespeareStreet@bbc.co.uk](mailto:ShakespeareStreet@bbc.co.uk)

## Just the job

A new Job Club is operating at St Oswald's Church, Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill.

The two hour session on Thursdays from 2-4pm is to help people build up workplace and interview skills.

The project is funded through the church.

## Volunteers call for festival

Volunteers, including individuals and groups, are being encouraged to join in with the planning of the 2016 Positive Images Festival which will be held from 11 to 30 June.

The next planning meeting is on 30 March from 12noon to 1.30pm in the main meeting room at the Central Library in Smithford Way. For further information, please email, Colin Scott, Chair of the festival, at [colrsco@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:colrsco@yahoo.co.uk)

# Fundraiser with a sting



■ From the left, David Armstrong (Wasps), Annie Somers and Bindy Poonia (Marie Curie) and Nathan Hughes (Wasps)

Wasps are getting behind Marie Curie charity by transforming the Ricoh Arena into a yellow wonderland.

The Aviva Premiership Rugby club has dedicated its Midlands derby against Northampton Saints at the Ricoh Arena on Sunday 3 April (kick-off 3pm), to Marie Curie by hosting a range of fundraising activities designed to make a lasting difference to the

charity, which provides care and support to people across the UK.

At the club's flagship fixture of the season - The Stinger - Wasps will encourage supporters of both teams to wear yellow on the day to raise awareness of the important care Marie Curie provides in the community and will be donating three per cent of every match ticket sold to the charity, while Marie Curie

volunteers will also hold a bucket collection at the ground on the day of the game.

To make a donation, please visit JustGiving at [www.justgiving.com/thestinger](http://www.justgiving.com/thestinger)

Tickets for Wasps v Northampton Saints are available from £15 for adults and under-10s go free and are available from [www.wasps.co.uk](http://www.wasps.co.uk) or by ringing 024 7678 6411.

## Bake it to beat Bowel Cancer

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month and Beating Bowel Cancer is calling on all cake lovers to get involved and help raise awareness of the disease and funds for the charity through having a 'Bake it' cake sale at work or with friends. Bowel cancer is the second biggest cancer killer but 90% of people are treated successfully if detected early.

If you would be interested in getting involved in the 'Bake it 2Beat It', please email [sajedah.patel@beatingbowelcancer.org](mailto:sajedah.patel@beatingbowelcancer.org) or call 07823 971623.

# Budding fun this springtime

Here are some of the things you can enjoy in and around Coventry

## War Memorial Park

Meet at Education Room  
Visitors centre, booking  
not essential. Please allow  
45 minutes to complete  
all activities. For more  
information contact reception  
024 7678 6280.

## Coombe Country Park

Meeting point for all events  
at the Information Desk/  
Shop in the Visitor Centre 5  
minutes before session begins.  
Advance booking and payment  
essential for all events unless  
otherwise stated. Please  
contact the Visitor Centre on  
024 7645 3720 or coombe.  
countrypark@coventry.gov.uk –  
bookings by credit/debit cards  
accepted over the phone. Car  
parking charges apply.

## Tot waddles - Every Friday

War Memorial Park (10.30am  
-12 noon, £3.50 per child)  
Meet the Education Team  
for some fun in the park. Go  
on a little adventure before  
coming inside for some arts  
and crafts. Dress appropriately  
for the weather. Suitable for  
two – four year-olds. (Younger  
siblings can accompany  
brothers and sisters but be  
aware that activities are aimed  
at two years and above.)  
Children must be accompanied  
by an adult.

## Ranger Volunteer Day Every Third Wednesday in the calendar month (from 16 March onwards)

(10.30am – 3pm, free). Various  
locations – Good fresh air and  
healthy exercise! Join the Park  
Service Rangers on the third  
Wednesday of every calendar  
month and help look after  
and develop Coventry's green  
spaces. Drinks and biscuits  
supplied, but bring your own  
lunch if staying all day. All  
volunteers must register in  
advance. Come once, come  
every time or just come  
when it suits you. For further  
information. Tel: 024 7683  
3633. Suitable for Adults.

## What's on at the museums



Until 10 April 2016

### Wildlife photographer of the year, Herbert Art Gallery

This world-renowned exhibition,  
on loan from the Natural History  
Museum, showcases 100 awe-  
inspiring images, featuring  
fascinating animal behaviour.

26 February – 24 April 2016

### New Art West Midlands 2016, Herbert Art Gallery

Exhibition showcases new  
contemporary work from artists  
who have recently graduated from  
West Midlands art schools.

11 March – 19 June 2016

### Degas' Dancers, Herbert Art Gallery

An opportunity to see one of the  
masterpieces of The Courtauld  
Gallery's collection in Coventry  
Edgar Degas' famous painting, Two  
dancers on a stage, alongside three  
other works by the artist.

22 April – 3 July 2016

### Grayson Perry: The Vanity of Small Differences, Herbert Art Gallery

A series of large-scale tapestries by  
the Turner-Prize winning Grayson  
Perry, which explore the British  
fascination with taste and class.

30 April 2016

### Coventry Open 2016

### Submission Day, Herbert Art Gallery

The exhibition is open to West  
Midlands and Warwickshire artists  
working in any medium with a prize  
of £1000 for the overall winner. For  
conditions of entry and an entry  
form, please visit [www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)

11 March 7.30pm – 10.30pm  
and 12 March 10 – 4pm

### Spring Makes Art and Craft Fair, Herbert Art Gallery

Free - Join us to meet a host of  
fantastic local artists.

11 March and 15 April

### Herbert Lates Herbert Art Gallery 7.30pm – 10.30pm

An exciting evening of art, music,  
drinks, talks, performance and  
history inspired fun. Herbert Lates  
are for over 18s. Please go to the  
website for full details.

15 March, 19 April

### Herbert Illuminations

Our popular, friendly and varied talk  
series continues. Suggested donation  
of £1. Booking is advised. Further  
Illumination dates. See our website  
for details.

12 March and 9 April

### Sketch Coventry – Free, Herbert Art Gallery 10.30am – 3.30pm

Join local urban sketchers in the  
Herbert Café for a day of sketching  
around Coventry city centre. Please  
bring your own materials.

9 April

### Cars 'n' Coffee 9 – 11am Coventry Transport Museum

This free event is an opportunity for  
classic car and motorcycle owners  
to show off their cars directly in  
front of the museum. All vehicle  
owners attending will enjoy a free  
pastry, when purchasing a regular  
sized tea or coffee. Due to space  
restrictions, places are strictly  
limited, and only pre-registered  
vehicles will be permitted onto  
Millennium Place on the day.

26 March - 10 April

### Easter Holidays Art Masters, Herbert Art Gallery

Be inspired by some of the artists  
on display in our galleries and get  
experimenting with a range of art  
materials and join in with lots of  
exciting activities. Please check our  
website for daily details, times and  
prices [www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)

Every day from 19 March  
to 1 April - Easter Egg Trail

Coombe Country Park  
(10am–4pm, £1.50 per trail  
set) Our very popular Easter  
trail is back. Follow the trail to  
find the egg clues around the  
park and crack the code to  
win a chocolate prize.

## MARCH

### 29 – Easter Egg-citement Rangers activities (1.30pm–

3pm, Free, no booking  
required) Longford Park, meet  
near play area. Join the Rangers  
for outdoor fun and games  
with an Easter theme. Suitable  
for all, under eight-year-olds  
must be supervised. Rangers  
are not responsible for young  
people leaving the event.

### 29 – Nature Crowns

Coombe Country Park (10am-  
10.45am or 11am-11.45am,  
£3 per child). Make your  
own willow nature crown  
and adorn with flowers and  
greenery. Suitable for three-  
year-olds and older.

### 29 – Crafty Creatures

Coombe Country Park (1pm  
-1.45pm or 2pm -2.45pm, £3  
per child). Make creatures with  
all sorts of materials, create  
anything from a beetle to a  
bumblebee or even make up  
your own fantastical creature.  
Suitable for three-year-olds  
and older.

### 30 – Easter Egg-citement Rangers activities (1.30pm

- 3pm, free, no booking  
required). Allesley Park, meet  
near play area. Join the Rangers  
for outdoor fun and games  
with an Easter theme. Suitable  
for all, under eight-year-olds  
must be supervised. Rangers  
are not responsible for young  
people leaving the event.

### 30 – Kiss the Frog

Coombe Country Park (10am  
-11.30am, £3 per child). Make  
a craft that shows the life cycle  
of a frog and then meet some  
of his friends in a pond dipping  
session in the park. Suitable for  
three-year-olds and older.



### 30 – Spring Animal Art

Coombe Country Park (1pm -1.45pm or 2pm – 2.45pm, £3 per child) Paint, stick, cut and colour away to make some springtime friends: chicks, lambs and bunnies. Suitable for 3 years and older.

### 31 - Easter Egg-citement

Rangers activities (1.30pm - 3pm, free, no booking required) Caludon Castle Park, meet near play area. Join the Ranger for outdoor fun and games with an Easter theme. Suitable for all, under eight-year-olds must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

### 31 - Gnome Sweet Gnome

War Memorial Park (1pm – 2.30pm £3.50 per child) Come and join the Education Team for an afternoon of messy fun. Paint a new friend for your garden and plant some seeds for them to look after. Suitable for families.

## APRIL

### 1 – Eggstra-ordinary Creatures

War Memorial Park (1.30pm - 3pm, £3.50 per child) Come and join the Education Team for an egg-citing afternoon of arts and crafts. Make loads of different creatures out of eggs. Suitable for families.

### 5 - Easter Egg-citement

Rangers activities (1.30pm - 3pm, free, no booking required) Redhouse Park, meet near play area. Join the Rangers for outdoor fun and games with an Easter theme. Suitable for all, under eight-year-olds must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

### 5 – Nature Crowns

Coombe Country Park (10am-10.45am or 11am-11.45am, £3 per child) Make your own willow nature crown and adorn with flowers and greenery. Suitable for three-year-olds and older.

### 5 – Crafty Creatures

Coombe Country Park (1pm -1.45pm or 2pm -2.45pm, £3 per child) Make creatures with all sorts of materials, create anything from a beetle to a bumblebee or even make up

your own fantastical creature. Suitable for 3 years and older.

### 6 - Easter Egg-citement

Rangers activities (1.30pm - 3pm, free, no booking required) Coundon Hall, meet near play area. Join the Rangers for outdoor fun and games with an Easter theme. Suitable for all, under eight-year-olds must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

### 6 – Kiss the Frog

Coombe Country Park (10am -11.30am, £3 per child) Make a craft that shows the life cycle of a frog and then meet some of his friends in a pond dipping session in the park. Suitable for three-year-olds and older.

### 6 – Spring Animal Art

Coombe Country Park (1pm -1.45pm or 2pm – 2.45pm, £3 per child) Paint, stick, cut and colour away to make some springtime friends: chicks, lambs and bunnies. Suitable for three-year-olds and older.

### 7 - Easter Egg-citement

Rangers activities (1.30pm - 3pm, free, no booking required) Willenhall Brook Stray, meet near play area. Join the Rangers for outdoor fun and games with an Easter theme. Suitable for all, under eight-year-olds must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

### 7 – Hopping Mad

War Memorial Park (1pm – 2.30pm, £3.50 per child) Have a messy afternoon with our Education Team. Come along and paint a Plaster of Paris rabbit and make other crafts to take home. Suitable for families.

### 8 - Brilliant Bird Bonanza

War Memorial Park (1.30pm – 3pm, £3.50 per child) Join the Education Team for an afternoon of birdy fun make some fat feeders and other bird themed crafts to take home. Suitable for families.

### 8 – Birds of Prey Display

Coombe Country Park (11am -1pm, free) Get up close and personal with these amazing birds of prey brought to you by Iris May Falcons. Booking not required. Suitable for all ages.

## MAY

### 31 – Berty the Bushcrafter:

**Shelter Building** Coombe Country Park (10am -12 noon, £4 per person) Find out how to make a shelter in the woods using only natural materials from the park. Suitable for families (all children must be accompanied by a paying participating adult)

### 31 – Berty the Bushcrafter:

**Firelighting** Coombe Country Park (1pm -3pm, £4 per person) Learn how to make a real fire from scratch in the woodland with the help of the team at Coombe. Includes marshmallow roasting. Suitable for families (all children must be accompanied by a paying participating adult).

## JUNE

### 1 – Nature Discovery Day: Meadow Mayhem

Coombe Country Park (10am – 11.30am, £4 per person) Meadow minibeasting and themed nature craft: Discover the sights, scents and sounds of the busy wildflower meadow

with butterfly nets and “creature catchers”. Suitable for Children five-years-old and over.

### 1 – Nature Discovery Day: Woodland Wonder

Coombe Country Park (1pm – 2.30pm, £4 per person) Woodland minibeasting and themed nature craft: From the smallest beetle to the tallest tree, discover with us what there is to see! Suitable for children five-years-old and over.

### 2 - Have a Tea Party!

War Memorial Park (1pm – 2.30pm, £3.50 per child) Come to the Visitor Centre and join our Education Team to have an afternoon of fun. Decorate a mug and coaster to take home. Suitable for families.

### 3 - Old McDonalds Farm

War Memorial Park (1.30pm – 3pm, £3.50 per child) Have a messy afternoon with our education team making farm animal themed crafts to take home. Suitable for families.

### 3 – Birds of Prey Display

Coombe Country Park (11am -1pm, Free) Get up close and personal with these amazing birds of prey brought to you by Iris May Falcons. Booking not required. Suitable for all ages.



## THE COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM

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### CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

“ON BASS-SIR HORACE GENTLEMAN”

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE SPECIALS BASSMAN AND

SCULPTRESS OF SOUND

A permanent display dedicated to Coventry's Electronic Music Pioneer DELIA DERBYSHIRE

## BABLAKE

Cllrs Galliers and Kershaw hold regular surgeries: Last Tuesday of month from 10.30am-12noon at The Good Honest Food Company, Gardenia Drive, Allesley Village. First Saturday of month 12noon-1pm at Coronation Club, Keresley Rd.



**Cllr David Galliers**  
Tel: 07973 780871 or e-mail [david.galliers@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:david.galliers@coventry.gov.uk)  
twitter @davidgalliers  
[www.facebook.com/Allesley](http://www.facebook.com/Allesley)  
CoundonAndKeresley  
[www.babblakelabour.com](http://www.babblakelabour.com)



**Cllr David Kershaw CBE JP**  
Tel: 024 7671 1107 or 07850 664576 or e-mail [david.kershaw@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:david.kershaw@coventry.gov.uk)



**Cllr Jaswant Birdi**  
Tel: 07931 364268 or e-mail [jaswant.birdi@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:jaswant.birdi@coventry.gov.uk)  
First Monday of month from 5-6pm, Allesley Village Hall, Birmingham Rd, Second Tuesday from 10.30-Noon, Good Honest Food Company, Gardenia Drive, Allesley Village.

## BINLEY AND WILLENHALL



**Cllr Dave Chater**  
Tel: 024 7667 2619 or 07759 062733 or e-mail [dave.chater@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:dave.chater@coventry.gov.uk)  
For an appointment or home visit please contact me.



**Cllr Ram P Lakha OBE**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail [ram.lakha@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ram.lakha@coventry.gov.uk) or [ram.lakha@btinternet.com](mailto:ram.lakha@btinternet.com)  
For an appointment or home visit please contact me.



**Cllr John Mutton**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail [john.mutton@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:john.mutton@coventry.gov.uk)  
For an appointment or advice please contact me.

## CHEYLESMORE

Cllrs Bailey and Noonan hold regular surgeries: Cheylesmore Community Centre 6.30-8pm on the last Wednesday of month (except Dec) or contact them directly as below.



**Cllr Roger Bailey**  
Tel: 024 7683 1101 (day) or e-mail [roger.bailey@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:roger.bailey@coventry.gov.uk)



**Cllr Hazel Noonan**  
Tel: 024 7683 1101 or e-mail [hazel.noonan@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:hazel.noonan@coventry.gov.uk)



**Cllr Richard Brown**  
Tel: 07563 729215 or 024 7683 1030 or e-mail [richard.brown@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:richard.brown@coventry.gov.uk)

## EARLSDON



**Cllr Ken Taylor OBE**  
Tel: 024 7667 3717  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr Allan Andrews**  
Tel: 024 7683 1276 or 07534 972383 or e-mail [allan.andrews@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:allan.andrews@coventry.gov.uk)  
Happy to help where I can, will visit you at home or at the Council House. Please call for appointment. Follow me on twitter @allanandrews



**Cllr Michael Hammon (Lord Mayor)**  
Tel: 024 7683 3048 for an appointment or e-mail [rosemarie.potts@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:rosemarie.potts@coventry.gov.uk)

## FOLESHILL



**Cllr Tariq Khan**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or 07415 534267 or e-mail [tariq.khan@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:tariq.khan@coventry.gov.uk)  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr Abdul Salam Khan**  
Tel: 024 7683 1034 (day) or 07903 847160 or e-mail [abdul.khan@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:abdul.khan@coventry.gov.uk)



**Cllr Malkiat Auluck**  
Tel: 024 7663 7965  
First and last Tuesday of month 4.30pm-6.30pm at Indian Community Centre, Cross Rd or call for an appointment.

## HENLEY



**Cllr Patricia Seaman**  
Tel: 07813 528963 or 024 7683 1039 or e-mail [pat.seaman@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:pat.seaman@coventry.gov.uk)



**Cllr Kevin Maton**  
Tel: 07852 450953 or e-mail [kevin.maton@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.maton@coventry.gov.uk)



**Cllr Ed Ruane**  
Tel: 07817 218137 or e-mail [ed.ruane@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ed.ruane@coventry.gov.uk)

## HOLBROOK



**Cllr Joe Clifford**  
Tel: 024 7646 5315 or e-mail [joseph.clifford@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:joseph.clifford@coventry.gov.uk)  
Every Wednesday, 6.30-7.30pm at Holbrook Community Care Assoc, Holbrooks Lane.



**Cllr Rachel Lancaster**  
Tel: 024 7636 0021 or 024 7683 1002 or e-mail [rachel.lancaster@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.lancaster@coventry.gov.uk)  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr Ann Lucas OBE**  
Tel: 024 7683 1103 or e-mail [ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk)  
Surgery on first Monday of each month 9.30-10.30am at Holbrook Health Centre, Wheelwright Lane.

## LONGFORD



**Cllr Lindsley Harvard (Deputy Lord Mayor)**  
Tel: 024 7683 3048 (day) 024 7667 5717 (evening) or e-mail [lindsley.harvard@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:lindsley.harvard@coventry.gov.uk)  
During the next 2 years I will be

undertaking Civic Duties and will therefore be suspending my surgeries. If you wish to contact me please call or email using the contact details above.



**Cllr Linda Bigham**  
Tel: 024 7636 0898 or e-mail [linda.bigham@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:linda.bigham@coventry.gov.uk)  
First Friday of month 3.30-4.30pm at Longford Primary Care Centre, Longford Rd, and 5.30-6.30pm at Scout Headquarters, Aldermans Green Rd. Last Friday of month 6-7pm at St Thomas' Parish Church Hall, Longford Rd.



**Cllr George Duggins**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail [george.duggins@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:george.duggins@coventry.gov.uk)  
Second Saturday of month 12-1pm at Bell Green Community Centre, Old Church Rd and 1.15-2pm at Royal Hotel, Old Church Rd. Second Sunday of month 11.30am-1pm at Bell Green Club, Roseberry Ave.

## LOWER STOKE



**Cllr Catherine Miks**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or 07415 534274 or e-mail [catherine.miks@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.miks@coventry.gov.uk)  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr John McNicholas**  
Tel: 024 7683 1030 (day), 024 7650 4037 (evenings) or e-mail [john.mcnicholas@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:john.mcnicholas@coventry.gov.uk)  
I can visit you in your home and I am at the Empress buildings, Binley Rd on the first and third Saturday of month from 10am.



**Cllr Rupinder Singh**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail [rupinder.singh@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:rupinder.singh@coventry.gov.uk)

## RADFORD



**Cllr Mal Mutton**  
Tel: 024 7630 4497 or 024 7683 1039 or e-mail [mal.mutton@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:mal.mutton@coventry.gov.uk)  
First Friday of month, 6.30pm-7.30pm, Daimler Green Community Centre.



**Cllr Keiran Mulhall**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail [keiran.mulhall@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:keiran.mulhall@coventry.gov.uk)  
Every Tuesday at Radford Social Club, 226, Radford Rd, CV6 3BQ, 6.30-7.30pm and the first Sunday of month 11.30am-12.30pm.



**Cllr Tony Skipper**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail [tony.skipper@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:tony.skipper@coventry.gov.uk)  
For an appointment please contact me.

## SHERBOURNE



**Cllr Seamus Walsh**  
Tel: 07956 546983 or 024 7683 1039 (day) or e-mail [seamus.walsh@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:seamus.walsh@coventry.gov.uk)



**Cllr Alison Gingell**  
Tel: 024 7683 1002 or e-mail [alison.gingell@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:alison.gingell@coventry.gov.uk)  
For an appointment please contact me.





**Cllr Damian Gannon**  
Tel: 07725 536259 or e-mail  
damian.gannon@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.

## ST MICHAELS



**Cllr David Welsh**  
Tel: 07956 307437 or e-mail  
david.welsh@coventry.gov.uk  
First Saturday, 12-1pm at the  
Redeemed Christian Church of God,  
(Former Howitzer Club), Albert St.  
Third Friday of month, 3-4pm at the Regeneration  
Office, 121-124 Far Gosford Street.



**Cllr Jim O'Boyle**  
Tel: 024 7669 4873 or  
024 7683 1039 or e-mail  
jim.o'boyle@coventry.gov.uk  
Second Saturday of month 1.15-  
1.45pm at Hillfields Library St. Peter's  
Community Centre, Charles St. Fourth Saturday of  
month, 12noon at Transport House, Short St.



**Cllr Naeem Akhtar**  
Tel: 07747 003141 or e-mail  
naeem.akhtar@coventry.gov.uk  
Surgeries first Tuesday of month, 5-6pm  
at Hillfields Youth Centre, Yardley St.  
For an appointment or home visit  
please contact me.

## UPPER STOKE



**Cllr Sucha Bains**  
Tel: 024 7645 9484 or e-mail  
sucha.bains@coventry.gov.uk  
Barras Green Social Club, Coventry  
St, between 12noon-12.45pm, first and  
third Saturday of the month.



**Cllr Kamran Caan**  
Tel: 024 7683 1002 or e-mail  
kamran.caan@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment or home visit  
please contact me.



**Cllr Dr Randhir Auluck**  
Tel: 07813 527888 or  
024 7683 1032 or e-mail  
randhir.auluck@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.

## WAINBODY



**Cllr John Blundell**  
Tel: 024 7683 1276 (weekdays)  
or 024 7641 9794 (evenings/  
weekends) or e-mail  
john.blundell@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment will gladly visit  
please contact me.



**Cllr Gary Crookes**  
Tel: 024 7683 1101 (day) or 024  
7646 1777 (after 6pm) e-mail  
gary.crookes@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr Tim Sawdon**  
Tel: 024 7683 1101 (day) or 024  
7641 5771 (after 6pm) or e-mail  
tim.sawdon@coventry.gov.uk

## WESTWOOD



**Cllr David Skinner**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 (day) or  
024 7646 8106 (out of hours)  
or e-mail  
david.skinner@coventry.gov.uk



**Cllr Maya Ali**  
Tel: 07949 653656 or e-mail  
maya.ali@coventry.gov.uk  
Every second Thursday 9.30-10.00am  
at Canley Library, Prior Deram Walk.  
(by strictly appointment only). Home  
visits available if required).



**Cllr Marcus Lapsa**  
Tel: 07813 528946 or  
024 7683 1101 or e-mail  
marcus.lapsa@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.

## WHOBBERLEY

Cllrs Akhtar and Innes hold regular surgeries every  
fourth Saturday (except Dec, July and August) from  
12 noon at Allesley Park Library.



**Cllr Pervez Akhtar**  
Tel: 07813 529217 or  
024 7683 1039 or e-mail  
pervez.akhtar@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr Jayne Innes**  
Tel: 024 7647 0411 or e-mail  
jayne.innes@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment or home visit  
outside these times, please contact me.



**Cllr Bally Singh**  
Tel: 07779 256898 or e-mail  
bally.singh@coventry.gov.uk  
Surgeries are held every third  
Saturday 10am-noon at St Mary  
Magdalen Centre, Sir Thomas White  
Rd. Also every first Friday 8.30-9am at Stoke Bakery,  
Allesley Park. For an appointment please contact me.

## WOODLANDS



**Cllr Peter Male**  
Tel: 07813 528960 or  
024 7683 1039 or e-mail  
peter.male@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr Steven Thomas**  
Tel: 07535 423796 or e-mail  
steven.thomas@coventry.gov.uk  
On the fourth Friday of each month  
at Tile Hill Library, Jardine Cres from  
5pm-6pm. For an appointment please  
call my residents hotline above.



**Cllr Julia Lepoidevin**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 (day) or  
07710 716913 or e-mail  
julia.lepoidevin@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.

## WYKEN

Cllrs Thay, Abbott and Sweet hold surgeries every  
third Friday of month, 6.30-7.30pm at Wyken  
Working Men's Club, Ansty Rd, Wyken.



**Cllr Robert Thay**  
Tel: 07875 031851 or e-mail  
robert.thay@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr Faye Abbott**  
Tel: 07944 996294 or e-mail  
faye.abbott@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.



**Cllr Hazel Sweet**  
Tel: 024 7661 6273 or e-mail  
hazel.sweet@coventry.gov.uk  
For an appointment please contact me.

## CABINET MEMBERS

**Cllr Ann Lucas OBE**, Leader,  
Policy and Leadership  
**Cllr Abdul Khan**, Deputy Leader,  
Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks  
**Cllr Damian Gannon**,  
Strategic Finance and Resources  
**Cllr Ed Ruane**, Children and Young People  
**Cllr David Kershaw CBE**, JP, Education  
(Deputy, Cllr Steven Thomas)  
**Cllr Kevin Maton**,  
Business, Enterprise and Employment  
(Deputy, Cllr John McNicholas - Transportation)(Deputy,  
Cllr Richard Brown - Small and Medium  
Size Enterprises)  
**Cllr Rachel Lancaster**, Public Services  
**Cllr Kamran Caan**, Health and Adult Services  
(Deputy, Cllr Joe Clifford)  
**Cllr Faye Abbott**, Community Development,  
Co-operative and Social Enterprise  
(Deputy, Cllr Randhir Auluck - Domestic Violence and  
Sexual Exploitation)

## COMMITTEES

**Audit and Procurement**  
C Cllr Tony Skipper DC Cllr Sucha Bains  
**Ethics**  
C Cllr Joe Clifford  
**Licensing and Regulatory**  
C Cllr David Galliers DC Cllr Robert Thay  
**Planning**  
C Cllr Hazel Sweet DC Dave Chater  
**Scrutiny Co-ordination**  
C Cllr George Duggins DC Cllr Naeem Akhtar  
**Finance and Corporate Services**  
(Scrutiny Board 1) C Cllr John Mutton  
**Education and Children's Services**  
(Scrutiny Board 2) C Cllr Mal Mutton  
**Business, Economy and Enterprise**  
(Scrutiny Board 3) C Cllr Ram Lakha  
**Communities and Neighbourhoods**  
(Scrutiny Board 4) C Cllr Tariq Khan  
**Health and Social Care**  
(Scrutiny Board 5) C Cllr David Welsh

C = Chair DC = Deputy Chair

## COVENTRY MPs

**Colleen Fletcher MP**  
Coventry North East, Call 0207 219 8036  
e-mail colleen.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk  
**Jim Cunningham MP**  
Coventry South, Call 024 7655 3159  
e-mail emmal.davies@parliament.uk  
**Geoffrey Robinson MP**  
Coventry North West, Call 024 7625 7870  
e-mail robinsong@parliament.uk

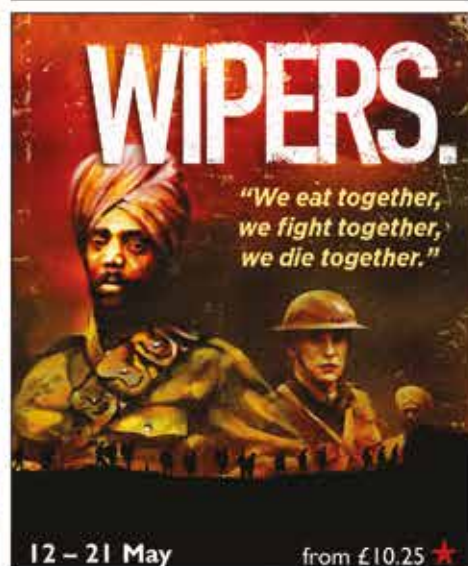
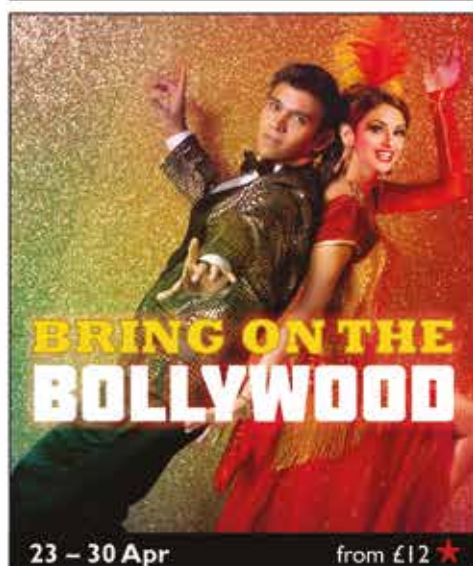
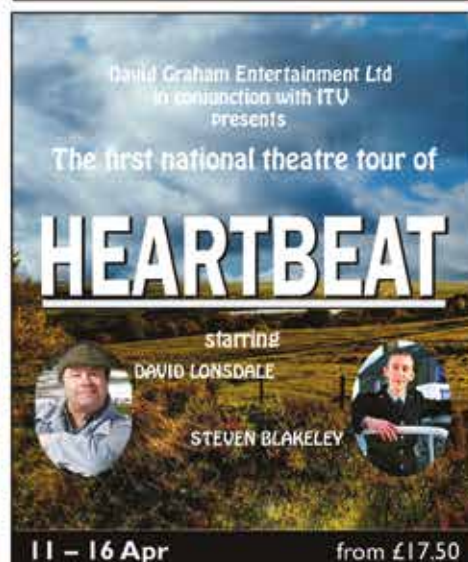
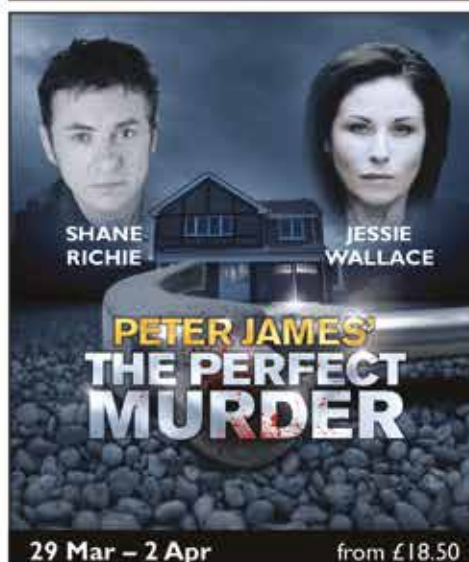
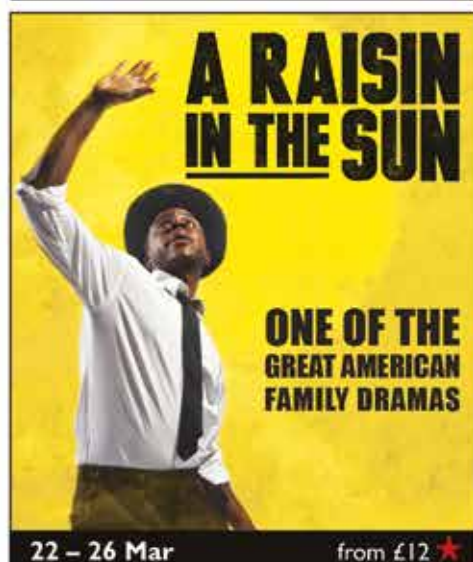
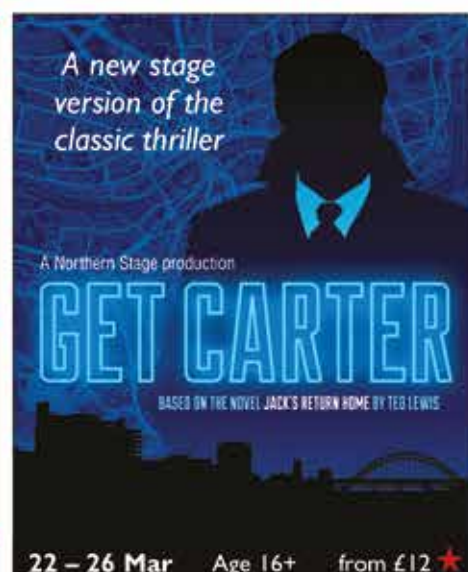
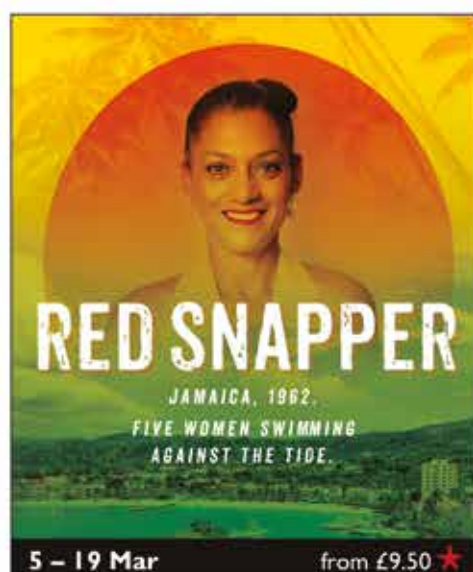
## EUROPEAN MPs WEST MIDLANDS REGION

**CONSERVATIVE**  
**Anthea McIntyre**, call 01989 769 544  
e-mail anthea@antheamcintyre.com  
**Daniel Dalton** call 01926 930683  
e-mail daniel@danieldaltonmep.co.uk  
**LABOUR**  
**Neena Gill**, call 0121 622 7298  
e-mail neenagillmep@gmail.com  
**Sion Simon**, call 0121 569 1911  
e-mail sion.simon@europart.europa.eu  
**UKIP**  
**James Carver**, call 01562 216020  
e-mail james.carver@europart.europa.eu  
**Bill Etheridge**, call 01902 664670  
e-mail info@mepukip.com  
**Jill Seymour** call 01952 924040  
e-mail jillsymour@europart.europa.eu

## POLICE COMMISSIONER

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner  
**David Jamieson** 0121 626 6060  
For details, visit [www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)





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