

Coventry

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

citivision

issue 57 | winter | 2016

All smiles for the festive season

INSIDE

- On your marks for Half Marathon
- Back to the 80's Ricoh gig
- Halt to bus lanes

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Albany Theatre**

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• A personal message from Cllr George Duggins, Leader, Coventry City Council.

Challenging times ahead

As we head into 2017 there are still challenging times ahead and none more so than planning for a balanced budget.

We have more savings to make because of cuts by central government, and need to consult with residents before we make any final decisions on changes to services.

At the same time we have to continue to work on regenerating the city and that's why in this edition of *Citivism* we are highlighting some of the developments underway like the Water Park and the Railway Station masterplan. We are also making progress on plans for City Centre South.

One off funds can only be used for these types of building projects – and not on day to day services – but it helps to keep money in the city through business rate growth and job creation.

We are also funding the Half Marathon and the Godiva Festival next year because we know these events matter to local people.

Elsewhere, I'm hopeful that our plan to suspend some bus lanes will prove beneficial in easing traffic congestion and improving air quality – again an important factor in attracting new businesses to the city.

This edition of *Citivism* also includes more about jobs and training for young people and an update on events coming to the city. Plus, there is more on the City of Culture bid, which we will know the outcome of in 2017.

In the meantime, I'd like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you need this information in another format or language please contact us:

Tel: 024 7683 1081
e-mail: communications@coventry.gov.uk

Cover story:
Fleur East kicks off festive season.

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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

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All details are correct at time of going to print (28 November 2016). Next issue out March 2017.

Government threat to services



National government spending cuts are continuing to be felt by the Council as it sets out its budget proposals for the next three years.

On Tuesday 29 November (the day after Citivision went to print) senior councillors were planning to discuss the Council's pre-budget report which lists savings of £21m over the next three years.

In total, the Council needs to make savings rising to £36m per year.

By 2020 the Council will have had a 55 per cent reduction in the government grant it has received since 2010 - the equivalent of £120m a year.

The proposals will result in further reductions in the numbers of Council staff through

"Councils nationwide are dealing with similar savings targets. What we are facing here in Coventry is a concerted effort by the government to place the burden of austerity measures onto local government."

early retirement and voluntary redundancy. Since 2010 the Council has already reduced its employee numbers by more than 2,100 staff.

Proposals in the pre-budget report also include a reduction in grounds maintenance in parks and street cleansing; a reorganisation of household waste collections; and savings identified in school transport.

Councillor John Mutton,

Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, said that Coventry's predicament was no different to those of councils up and down the country.

He said: "Councils nationwide are dealing with similar savings targets. What we are facing here in Coventry is a concerted effort by the government to place the burden of austerity measures onto local government."

"That's why we are setting out a series of proposals that we need to consider."

"We have included further staff reductions; reductions in parks and street cleansing; and a reorganisation of household waste collections. A final decision will be made once we have consulted local people."

Other proposals include

reductions in the Council's budget for road repairs and resurfacing programmes; and savings across its employment support services.

Despite the savings targets, the Council has a number of big development schemes underway. The money for these types of building projects cannot, however, be used for day to day council services because the money is allocated from specific one off funds.

These include work around Whitley to assist the Jaguar Land Rover development; the Friargate development; city centre public realm work; and the new water park leisure centre in the city centre.

Details of the budget proposals consultation are available at www.coventry.gov.uk/budget

Council recoups £245,000

Council auditors have clawed back in the region of £245,000 of incorrect Council Tax exemption payments since April 2015.

The news comes at a time when councils are facing greater money constraints, and managing their finances is becoming more crucial than ever.

Coventry City Council it is committed to providing support to people who make genuine claims for Council Tax exemptions, but each year dozens of cases are found to be incorrect due to the changes in the circumstances of claimants.

The Council undertakes a rolling programme of reviews linked to Council Tax exemptions and discounts to ensure customers are still entitled to them.

Anyone who currently receives a discount or exemption for Council Tax and whose circumstances have changed needs to tell the Council as this could affect their entitlement.

People who have a concern that someone may be receiving a Council Tax exemption or Council Tax Support, incorrectly can report it in confidence on 024 7683 2569 or by e-mailing ctfraud@coventry.gov.uk

To report concerns about Housing Benefit or joint Housing Benefit / Council Tax Support claims, contact the Department of Work and Pensions on Freephone 0800 854440.

Award winning author visit

A best-selling author will be coming to Tile Hill Library, on Friday 13 January from 2.30pm when she will be talking about her latest book.

Josephine Cox is one of the UK's biggest and best-loved authors, and is consistently a

best-seller. She has sold over 20 million books, and was

recently awarded the prestigious RNA Lifetime Achievement Award and is one of the UK's most borrowed authors.



Social housing search online

The system used to allocate social housing in the city and how properties are advertised now enables people to apply for priority banding online.

Coventry Homefinder can be visited at www.coventry.gov.uk/applyprioritybanding where

people can apply and instantly find out exactly what evidence they need to provide, including a photo which can be uploaded straight away.

Once people have provided all of the required evidence, the application will be processed.

£2.55m broadband boost

Coventry is aiming to increase the amount of homes that can access superfast broadband.

Currently just 91.7% of properties in Coventry have fast broadband, compared to the Government target of 95%.

"Investing in our infrastructure now puts us in a better position in the future. It will help Coventry remain competitive and a place that people want to live and work in."

The £2.55m capital investment will unlock an overall package of £15m worth of grants across Coventry and Warwickshire and will enable 8,000 locations – a mix of business and residential – to connect to Superfast broadband. Warwickshire County Council will also seek to match the funds.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said:

"Investing in broadband has been proven to bring jobs and wealth to an area. We want to remove any barriers to success in the digital economy. Of course I'd like to think that the private sector could have covered this – but as they can't, or won't – we have stepped in."

Cllr John Mutton, Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, said:

"Investing in our infrastructure now puts us in a better position in the future. It will help Coventry remain competitive and a place that people want to live and work in."

The project will be completed by the established Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire Broadband Project (CSW Broadband). One-off corporate funding of £150,000 is set to be invested in order to project manage the Council's investment and work as part of CSW Broadband.

... plus Virgin Media in up to 30,000 homes

Virgin Media has announced that homes and businesses in Coventry will be next to benefit from an ultrafast broadband and entertainment boost this year, as part of its £3bn network expansion across the UK.

Virgin Media plans to expand its fibre optic network to 30,000 local homes and businesses. Work has already begun in the area and is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

People who wish to take Virgin Media's services will be connected

to ultrafast broadband with download speeds of up to 200Mbps for residents, and 300Mbps for local businesses and home workers.

Cllr John Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, said: "Having the infrastructure that enables residents to access quicker more efficient broadband services is important to the city."

People to register interest at: www.virginmedia.com/cablemystreet

■ Cllr John Mutton with Jo Dutton, Virgin Media.



Half Marathon backing



Coventry City Council has approved an additional £50,000 to stage the Coventry Half Marathon in 2017.

The approval would enable the event to continue and provides the financial security for the Council to deliver the event next year.

This Council decision will also enable an early commitment to a suitable spring 2017 date for the event.

Councillor Abdul Khan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member responsible for Events, said: "GO2 Events have decided to end their

contract to deliver the event, so we have moved quickly to consider the options to continue the Half Marathon next year.

"We hope runners, local businesses, sponsors and charities, can now plan for the event."

In 2016, Coventry's Half Marathon attracted 4,212 runners and the associated Schools Challenge event attracted 1,033 children as participants. In 2016, the event secured over £80,000 in charitable fundraising.

People can register their initial interest in the 2017 event at www.coventryhalf.com

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Recruiting for Ambassadors



The Coventry Ambassador volunteer programme is on the lookout for new recruits to join its award-winning team.

The Ambassadors first appeared when the city hosted Olympic events as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games and it is one of the only remaining Host

City volunteer programmes in the country.

Coventry Ambassadors are still keeping the London 2012 legacy alive having volunteered at over 90 events including Davis Cup Tennis and Four Nations Rugby League.

Each new recruit receives a uniform and induction training

delivered by EnV (Coventry) C.I.C, the local social enterprise managing and sustaining the Coventry Ambassadors Programme.

EnV are welcoming applications from anyone who is interested regardless of if they have volunteered before. They are looking for people who have

excellent communication skills, and a can do attitude.

For more details and to apply online please visit www.env.uk.com/coventry-ambassadors/ Applicants must be 18 or over to be eligible.

■ Left to right: Babu Koria; Michaela Eyley; Alison Singhathe; Nusrit Shaheen; David Prescott; Bhavna Mistry

Could you volunteer and become a School Governor?

- Do you care about improving children's education and want to contribute to your local community?
- Do you want to work as part of a team and value contributions made by others?
- Are you willing to challenge and ask questions?
- Are you open to new ideas, willing to learn and undertake training to understand the role?

We'd love to hear from you, please contact Angela Carr, Governor Services Manager at 024 7683 1323 or angela.carr@coventry.gov.uk



Bus lanes suspended

Coventry City Council is to suspend a number of bus lanes in the city as part of a six month trial starting in January.

The proposal follows a pledge made by the Leader of the Council, Cllr George Duggins, earlier this year.

Traffic in Coventry has increased by 20% in the past 15 years according to a report by the Department for Transport.

The same report also suggests that Coventry has the fastest rising levels of congestion due to population and economic growth.

Cllr Duggins said: "As a bus passenger I know the importance of public transport, but I also know how frustrating it can be to be stuck in traffic next to an empty bus lane."

"I'm delighted we want to keep traffic moving. So, we're going to suspend bus lanes and monitor whether traffic flow improves."

"We will work with bus operators to develop more effective means of improving bus journey time reliability and hopefully encourage more people

to use buses to ease congestion."

There are currently 22 bus lanes in Coventry, totalling 8km in length. In addition, there are bus priority measures at nine signalised junctions. All bus lanes in Coventry operate 24 hours a day.

Councillor Jayne Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services, said: "We need to ensure we balance the needs of all road users and that's what this trial is all about."

The bus lanes that will be suspended are:

- Ansty Rd outbound at Clifford Bridge Rd
- Ansty Rd inbound at Burns Rd
- Binley Rd
- Foleshill Rd/Old Church Rd (inbound 95m and outbound 125m)
- Holbrook Lane outbound
- London Rd outbound St James Lane
- Tile Hill Gyratory

The bus lanes will be suspended for six months under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.

Sky's the limit for job trainees!

Coventry City Council's Business Investment Team and the Employer Hub have helped two young people into jobs with CFS Aero.

CFS Aero were recruiting for a Trainee Engineer position, hoping to find someone with the ability to learn highly technical work, starting with propeller repair and to then develop their skills to work across all their operations.

After posting the position in the Job Shop, two candidates, Bogdan Veneciuc and Athanasios Georgas, were identified. CFS Aero were so impressed with both candidates that they decided to recruit them both.

Jon Freedman, Chairman of CFS Aero said: "The Employer Hub were actually far more professional in their approach than many recruitment agencies we have used in the past and it is great to see the Council supporting local businesses. The two candidates they sent us were both first rate."



■ Left to right: Bogdan Veneciuc - Trainee Engineer, Jon Freeman - Chairman of CFS Aero, Councillor Jim O'Boyle - Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, Glen Smailes - Coventry City Council, Employer Hub, Athanasios Georgas - Trainee Engineer.

Both Bogdan and Athanasios are enjoying their new roles. Bogdan said: "I am doing a job I dreamed of doing from childhood. I've gone from making paper planes as a child to working on real planes as an adult!"

Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration said: "It was a real pleasure to visit CFS Aero. The company are a great example of high tech manufacturing work in the city and they are providing valuable opportunities to two young enthusiastic lads - I wish them every success."

Job search and training help

Coventry Citizens Advice and Groundwork West Midlands have teamed up to offer individual support with finding employment and accessing training or education.

Funded by Big Lottery and the European Social Fund the project will cover a range of ways people can get help with money management and financial confidence, help with work experience, training, education

and employment or self-employment.

The team will also give support with financial worries, benefit problems and housing issues or anything else that may be holding people back.

The project is targeted at anyone who is not working. For details call 024 7625 2627 or e-mail breakthrough@coventrycab.org.uk

Making a mark at M&S

The Prince's Trust know that most young people have the determination and willingness to find jobs, but often lack the opportunities they need.

That's why partnerships between the Trust and leading organisations such as Marks and Spencer and Jobcentre Plus are invaluable - offering jobless young people workplace experience and giving them the confidence and skills they need to move into employment.

23 year old Natalie Stansfield, from Coventry, was referred to the Trust by Tracey Collinson, Jobcentre Plus in Cofa Court. Natalie excelled during a four-week employability programme called Make Your Mark and secured employment with M&S at the end of the course.

Natalie said: "The programme was the most amazing experience; it was a really good opportunity



■ Natalie Stansfield at M&S.

for me. I learnt new skills and met some lovely people. I would highly recommend this Prince's Trust programme."

Make Your Mark is among the programmes available to young people in Coventry. For more information about The Prince's Trust visit princes-trust.org.uk or call free 0800 842 842.

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■ Left to right: Chiara Tornaghi, Alan Markey, Cllr Faye Abbott, Ian Nutt, Rosie Oglesby and Marielle Dubbeling.

Food for thought

A conference aimed at raising awareness and promoting new ideas around food poverty and creating a sustainable food network has been taking place in the city.

Led by the Feeding Coventry Partnership around sustainable food policies and food justice, it is hoped the event can lead to finding joint solutions to tackling food poverty.

Coventry is one of five pilot schemes taking place across the country.

Councillor Faye Abbott, Cabinet Member for Adult Services at

Coventry City Council, said: "The event gives us a great platform to find solutions to food poverty and create something that is sustainable."

Alan Markey, who is Chair of the Coventry Welfare Reform Working Together Group, said: "It is really encouraging that so many organisations are coming together. Food poverty is a real problem in Coventry. Many people find it a real challenge to make ends meet and food is often one of the first areas to be compromised."

For more details visit www.coventrypartnership.com

Credit unions warning

Coventry's two credit unions are hoping to expand by providing safer financial services solutions for low income groups who are facing obstacles to getting a bank account or loans.

Both Coventry and District Credit union, located on Walsgrave Rd, Ball Hill and New Central Credit Union, located on Smithford Way, offer a range of services such as savings and loans, budget accounts and free life insurance - subject to conditions.

Credit Unions are not for profit and help residents avoid using loan sharks with their high interest rates, by providing fairer loans.

Isabelle Osborne from the Coventry and District Credit Union says that their union works closely with the Wood End area and other parts of the city to help people become more financially stable.

Isabelle said: "We welcome all residents with different financial backgrounds. The main aim is to provide affordable finance. We want to help people to manage their finances more effectively."

Unlike national banks both credit unions offer residents the opportunity to open a savings account with alternative forms of ID such as a benefit letter from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

Credit unions are also a way of helping customers to improve their credit score. Navneet Sharma added: "Our loan interest rates are capped at 3% per month by the Bank of England unlike the high interest lenders and there are no early repayment penalties."

Cllr Linda Bigham Cabinet Member for Community Development is backing the role of credit unions. She said: "I'd encourage people to find out more about the city's credit unions. They offer a vital financial alternative for people – and many residents may not be aware of them."

For more details contact:
www.newcentracu.co.uk or
call 024 7663 3456.
www.creditunioncoventry.com
or call 024 7699 8099.

“When Chloe came to us she told us she had never been to a birthday party. When she was invited to a friends for the first time she was just so excited. We spent hours choosing the right dress and talking about the party food. To us it was the normal mix of screaming children and too much sugar - but to her it was an absolutely amazing, magical experience”

Coventry City Council needs more people to foster and make a real difference to children's lives


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Tribute for first female Asian councillor

The city's first ever female Asian councillor has been honoured by having a Coventry street named after her.

Meto Lakha, sadly passed away in February 2012, and as a tribute to her achievements a leading former councillor was keen to see her honoured in some way.

Alderman Dave Batten was the Council's Member for City Development in 2003 when the Council – including Meto - gave its backing during a 10 hour debate to help kickstart the Ricoh Arena development.

At that time Meto was suffering serious health problems and was taken to hospital in intensive care immediately after the vote was made.

Honorary Alderman Dave Batten said: "If anyone deserves this honour it is Meto, I'm absolutely delighted."

Meto Lakha became the first Asian councillor in May 1992.

Her husband Cllr Ram Lakha, Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services, said that the street name was a matter of huge pride for him, and his family. He said: "It is a permanent reminder and a fitting honour for a dear wife and mother."



■ Centre Cllr Ram Lakha OBE and centre left Honorary Alderman Dave Batten with councillors and friends.

"By creating this tribute it sends a strong message to women - and particularly Asian women that anything can be achieved."

Meto had three children now aged 38, 37, and 36. She first came

to Coventry as an 11 year old in 1968.

Current Deputy Leader, Cllr Abdul Khan, was keen to see that a street name was created in memory of Meto. He said: "It's

fantastic to witness the street name now in place. It is an important moment in Coventry's political history."

Meto Lakha Close is just off the A444 next to Gallagher Retail Park.

Help for children with special needs

The Coventry Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Local Offer brings together information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

It outlines all the provision expected to be available to families across education, health

and social care and should be accessible, comprehensive (in the information provided), up-to-date, and transparent. This will include:

- **Education:** such as nurseries, playgroups, schools and colleges and support services like educational psychologists, sensory support and the Local Authority SEN team (including statutory assessment processes)
- **Health:** children's and adult

services including GPs, therapists and hospital services

- **Social care:** such as short break services, community/ support groups and children's and adult disability services

It also offers the chance to feedback and make suggestions about what is (or isn't!) available across Coventry, helping to shape the provision in the future.

For more information, go to www.coventry.gov.uk/localoffer

Tackling domestic violence



■ Photo: Backing the pledge in support of White Ribbon Day (Centre) Cllr Pervez Ahktar with David Armstrong, Wasps Chief Executive.

Wasps Rugby Union Team are backing a campaign to tackle the problem of domestic violence and gender based violence in Coventry.

The scheme, called White Ribbon Day, highlights how men and boys show their opposition to violence against women and girls. The slogan is "Real men respect women."

It has the backing of Coventry Haven Women's Aid, Coventry Domestic Violence and Abuse Services, (CDVASS) and Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC).

Cllr Pervez Ahktar, Chair of Coventry Victim Support and Harm Reduction Strategic Partnership, said: "The support of Wasps players from such a high profile male sport is important."

On average two women are murdered each week in the UK as a result of domestic violence.

For details visit www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/ or www.safetotalk.org.uk Support services can be contacted by calling: 0800 035 5309 and Coventry Haven Women's Aid can be contacted on 024 7644 4077 or at www.coventryhaven.co.uk

Our crews will be working between Christmas and New Year and your bins will be collected on your usual day

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To check what day your bins are collected go to www.coventry.gov.uk/bindays

”

You can join the Coventry Recycling Club at www.coventry.gov.uk/recyclingclub



Going for gold at the Albany Theatre

The Albany Theatre, near the city centre on the Butts, is currently experiencing a kind of renaissance. It's a theatre that is going places, where its youth development programme matters so much and it is looking to the future with a large chunk of optimism.

David Meredith doesn't like to make a big deal about his role as Chairman and Chief Executive of the Albany Theatre Trust. In fact, he only stumbled on the role when he jokingly says he was, 'in the wrong place at the wrong time'.

As a volunteer he is very definitely looking to the long term, highlighting the recently launched Albany Young Producers. He is also keen to publicise a gala fundraising event in aid of Coventry's International Children's Games competitors because he says, it will be a showcase for the Young Producers, and because it will highlight the role the theatre is playing right across the city's communities.

He said: "This is a professional theatre run primarily by volunteers and one that works with a range of people including people who are unemployed and with mental health problems. It sets out to change people's lives."

"We have a brand new Young Producers programme, and one of their first big events will be to organise a gala evening on 17 February and 19 February in aid of raising money to fund young

"This is a professional theatre run primarily by volunteers and one that works with a range of people including people who are unemployed and with mental health problems. It sets out to change people's lives."

athletes from Coventry to attend future International Children's Games events.

"The target is £20,000 and we are hoping that former participants and the wider community will support the event. The gala event is by young people for young people."

Cllr John Mutton, Chair of Coventry International Children's Games Committee, said: "We are so grateful for the support of the Albany Theatre. We have just recently taken part in the 50th Anniversary Games in Taiwan. It would be fantastic if we hit our target."

Albany Young Producers is open to 16 to 25 year olds who will have the opportunity to develop work and put on events at the theatre.

Apart from its programme of performances, the theatre also runs Albany Picture House.

Contact details where you can find out more are at the bottom of the page.

A Christmas Carol

A first for the theatre also includes putting on 39 performances of A Christmas Carol, including 12 for schools, with two signed performances and a "dementia friendly" performance for people with Alzheimer's and their carers, in association with the Alzheimer's Society for Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Albany Theatre has never taken on so many performances. The stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol includes a starring role from Trish Adudu, BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Radio – as the Ghost of Christmas Present.

Details are available about the gala evening, A Christmas Carol and the picture house at www.albanytheatre.co.uk or by calling the box office on 024 7699 8964.

■ Front Jodie Dickson and right Rebecca Finley from the Young Producers and back left Cllr John Mutton and right David Meredith.

City's colourful history

■ Cathy Renken, designer and Illustrator of the colouring book.



Coventry's rich history has been illustrated in the form of a new colouring book put together by the City of Coventry Freeman's Guild.

The book features highlights of Coventry history, including royal visits, civic leaders and merchants, as well as other celebrations of Coventry's fascinating history and heritage.

The book was the vision of Peter Wilford, past Master of the Guild, who said: "I would like to help children and local people celebrate the city's rich medieval and cultural history."

"There is so much to explore and the beautiful illustrations and forgotten facts in this book really help to bring Coventry's medieval history to life."

A significant part of the sale proceeds will go to local Coventry charities.

The book is available from the Tourist Information Centre, Herbert Museum, Holy Trinity Church, Cathedral Gift shop, Coventry Transport Museum, Priory Visitor Centre, Ansty Road Post Office, Coventry Watch Museum (Spon St), Big Comfy Bookshop (Fargo Village, Gosford Street) and Charterhouse (on London Road) for £4.99.

The Masterji effect

A 94-year-old photographer, has documented the arrival and the lives of South Asian immigrants to Coventry since the 1950s.

Maganbhai Patel – better known as Masterji – has an archive of around 70 photographs (see example right) that were taken between Masterji's home studio and his established Hillfields studio Master's Art Studio between 1951 and the 1990s.

The photographs were gathered by a local group called the Photo Archive Miners (PAM) who discovered Masterji's work during their Imagine Hillfields exhibition in 2015.

Jason Tilley, of PAM, said: "The work of Masterji is of huge

significance, not just for Coventry but the UK, because it's a window into the lives of people as they arrived here and the images they wanted to send home.

"Many of the pictures were taken as portraits or for their official documentation so you see a very formal image. It really documents a very important part of the city's history and its cultural diversity."

Masterji moved to Coventry from Surat in India in 1951, with little more than a Box Brownie camera. He ran a studio from the 1960s to the 1990s. It is still there today and is run by his son Ravindra Patel.

The archive features as part of the Coventry's bid to become UK



City of Culture in 2021.

The Masterji photographs will also be exhibited in Bombay in March 2017. For details visit www.photomining.org



Ira was first black Othello

It is a little known fact that the African American actor Ira Aldridge was the first black actor to play Othello in this country.

This extraordinary man also became the manager of the Coventry Theatre in 1828, before the age of 21. These remarkable achievements were celebrated in November with a unique performance at the Belgrade



Theatre followed by a procession through the streets of Coventry to the site of the former theatre where flowers were laid in his honour. Special guest and 99 year old actor Earl Cameron CBE, who was the first black actor to take up a starring role in a British film, was in attendance (pictured).

Against Prejudice: Ira Aldridge in Coventry 1828 was presented by Warwick University's Multicultural Shakespeare Project, the Belgrade Theatre and supported by Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 Bid.

Radio's right royal award



Volunteers on Radio Plus with Ursula Russell MBE, DL, Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands in the middle holding the certificate.

Radio Plus 101.5FM (www.radioplus.org.uk) was recently presented with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service by The Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Ursula Russell MBE DL.

Radio Plus received the award for its community work with local churches and organisations across Coventry to signpost listeners to local services and events. Its mission is to use the media to positively influence people in Coventry, based on Christian values.

Tim Coleman Radio Station Manager, said: "It recognises the achievements of our amazing volunteers who give up their time to help run Radio Plus."

Radio Plus is one of eight local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year. It has also been awarded to Carriers of Hope, Poppy Appeal Group, Coffee Tots, Ekta Unity Group, Masjid E Zeenat UI Islam, Positive Images Festival and the Sikh Union.



City centre's Yuletide appeal

The season of goodwill has officially arrived in Broadgate which has been filled with cabins including a special Prosecco Bar

running until the end of December.

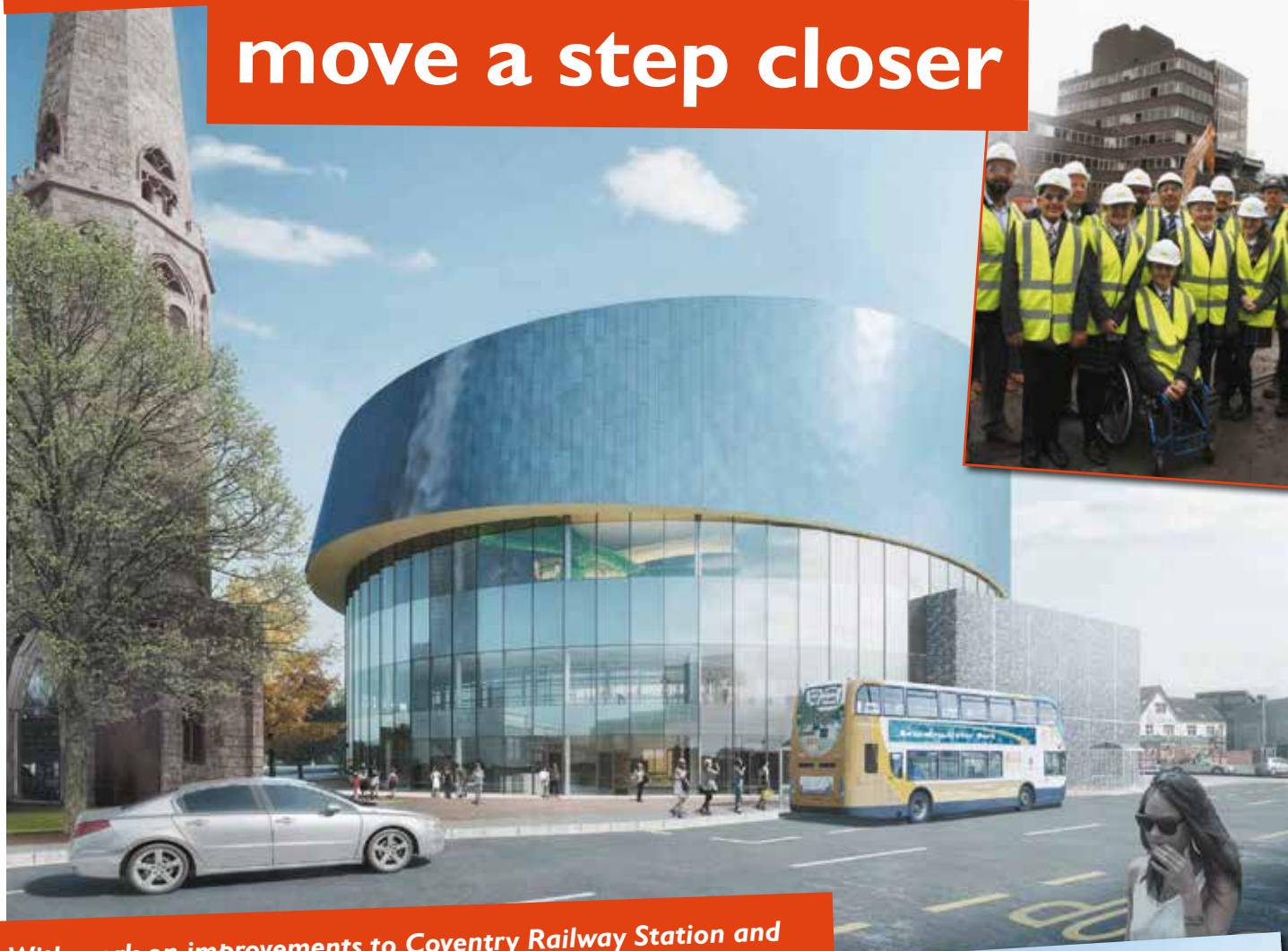
Coventry's Christmas Village is welcoming shoppers and offering traditional Yuletide fun. City stores have been opening later until 9pm on Wednesday evenings and on Thursday, December 22 and Friday, December 23.

Free parking is being offered - including at West Orchards Shopping Centre, for late night shopping on Wednesdays. Car parks will be free for motorists after 3pm. More than 10,000 people came in to the city centre for the lights switch on.

Making a splash!

New city centre developments

move a step closer



With work on improvements to Coventry Railway Station and the new city centre water park (pictured above) well underway things are looking up for people heading in to the city centre.

There are more projects in the pipeline, but for now we take a closer look at a few to find out how plans are shaping up.

Rides, slides and saunas

The new water park and sports centre is set to open in early 2019, with the demolition of two Council buildings, Christchurch House and Spire House, making quick progress.

Councillors recently met the water park junior design consultants at the demolition site to see how work was progressing.

The students from Westwood Academy have been working with the Council and the water park designers to make sure the new centre will be a place that everyone can enjoy. The young people have particularly been discussing the types of rides and slides that will be at the centre and making sure that as much of

the centre as possible will be accessible for disabled people.

The new centre will have six slides and a bowl with low level activities, a separate 25m x 4 lane pool, 120 station gym, a sauna and day spa, a dance/spin studio and squash courts.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member, Public Health and Sport, said: "It was great to get on site



■ Knocking down the old Council buildings and above right Councillors and Westwood Academy students view the water park site.

and see the demolition taking place. I was delighted to meet the students who I know have been working really hard. I can't wait for the water park to open and I know the students are excited too."

All aboard for railway station gateway scheme

Built in the 1960s, the railway station was a grade II listed building, but is now looking tired, with limited passenger facilities. Work has started on improvements to the railway station – offering a new gateway into the city centre.

Improvements to the station – including a new second entrance, multi-storey car park, new footbridges and canopies, a new bay platform and access tunnel under Warwick Road – will provide better services to match the projected growth in rail use and support city centre developments. The project will be complete by 2021.

Cllr David Welsh, Deputy Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said work on the railway station would provide an important link to other regeneration that's taken place. He said: "We expect lots more people to be visiting Coventry for work and leisure and the station is their first impression of our city."



■ Artist's impression of new railway station layout.



Revamp for Co-op site



■ Artist's impression.

The site of the former Co-op department store and the adjacent 2 – 12 Corporation Street, known as the Hawkins building, will be transformed as part of a redevelopment.

The scheme will bring the buildings back into use and will transform the area that fronts on to Corporation Street, while retaining the former store's iconic features, including the stone columns complete with colourful engravings and covered walkways.

The scheme will include new shops and restaurants and there could also be seating under the covered section. New rental apartments will be created on the

upper floors.

Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said that the Co-op was much loved.

He added: "The Co-op's 1950's architectural features are strikingly impressive, so I'm really pleased that they are retained."

"Successful cities are thriving both day and night so the apartments, which will be for sale, will add a new dimension to city living here in Coventry."

The redevelopment is funded by private developers, EDG Property. The refurbishment will take 12-16 months to complete once work begins.

CENTRAL SIX RETAIL PARK

☆

The perfect shopping mix this Christmas

☆

FREE PARKING | CLICK & COLLECT
NEXT TO COVENTRY RAILWAY STATION

People first on health

A new multi-agency health agreement has been signed by organisations in Coventry and Warwickshire, which is aiming to focus on what's best for the public, rather than the interests of health organisations.

The Health and Wellbeing Boards of Warwickshire and Coventry – whose membership includes the areas' councils, clinical commissioning groups, NHS Trusts, voluntary and patient associations, emergency services and others, has signed up to a new 'Health and Wellbeing Alliance Concordat'.

The agreement is aimed at creating a health and wellbeing 'system' that is easy to understand. The agreement will also result in the integration of services across Coventry and Warwickshire over the next five years.

Councillor Kamran Caan, Chair of the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet Member for Public Health and



■ Cllr Kamran Caan with Cllr Izzi Seccombe, senior councillors and health agency representatives.

Sport at Coventry City Council, said: "People and communities are at the heart of everything we do and creating a partnership like this is going to help shape future health services."

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Chair of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Leader of Warwickshire County Council, said: "This is a momentous step for the health and care needs of our people. I am excited to be going forward together."

Alcohol Awareness Week

Coventry City Council has been joining forces with St John Ambulance in a live social media session to help control the number of admissions to A&E. The Public Health Team joined the staff on shift in the city centre during the evening and posted the experience live.

St John Ambulance attend

alcohol related incidents in Coventry City Centre and treat people which will often prevent them attending A&E.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, said: "We want the public to understand the recommended limit and know the risks that come with unsafe drinking."

Stay well despite the cold

A national campaign has been launched to help vulnerable residents to 'Stay Well This Winter'.

The campaign is encouraging people most at risk from cold weather, including those with long-term health conditions and the over 65s, to prepare for the lower temperatures.

Around 25,000 more people die over the course of each winter compared to other times of the year and there is a range of conditions worsened by the cold weather – 80 per cent of these deaths are accounted for by people with circulatory diseases (such as

heart disease, lung illnesses and stroke), dementia and respiratory diseases (such as asthma).

Exposure to cold indoor or outdoor temperatures increases blood pressure, thereby increasing the risk of heart failure, kidney disease, stroke or dementia.

Cold temperatures can also make blood more likely to clot, which can lead to heart attacks and stroke.

In addition, cold can also affect the respiratory system, which reduces the lungs' ability to fight off infection, explaining why lower temperatures are linked with

bronchitis and pneumonia.

Colder weather is not only associated with an increase in deaths but also has a significant impact on the number of people becoming ill, increasing the winter pressures felt by the health care services.

Research shows that for every one degree centigrade drop below five degrees in outdoor average temperatures, there is more than a 10 per cent increase in older people consulting their GP for breathing problems, a 0.8 per cent increase in emergency hospital admissions and a 3.4 per cent increase in deaths.

The campaign messages, which include TV, radio and social media,

urge people to be ready for the colder season and to seek immediate advice and help from a pharmacist as soon as they feel unwell, before their condition gets more serious.

The campaign also advises people to heat their homes to at least 18°C (65°F) and to look out for those at increased risk of illness over the winter months.

For more information and advice on how to 'Stay Well This Winter' visit www.nhs.uk/staywell

Dementia friends target reached

Helen McMahon, from St Michael's Hospital in Warwick, has become Coventry and Warwickshire Trust's 1,000th Dementia Friend.

The milestone is helping the Trust in becoming a Dementia Friendly Organisation.

Helen said: "The Dementia Friends session really opened my eyes to the challenges facing people with dementia, as well as their carers. I would recommend everyone, young and old, to become a Dementia Friend."

Keeley Waldron, Regional Support Officer – Dementia Friends, Alzheimer's Society, commented on the achievement: "We are grateful to Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust for its dedication in creating Dementia Friends." The Alzheimer's Society initiative is the biggest ever social action movement to change perceptions of dementia.

To find out more visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk



■ Left to right: Helen McMahon, John Daley, Alzheimer's Society (Warwickshire) with Trust colleagues in the background.

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Portraits give hope to worried parents

A unique series of portraits has been unveiled at University Hospital, Coventry.

Seventeen children and adults who were all born prematurely have been pictured whilst holding a photograph of themselves when they were born.

It is hoped that the portraits displayed on the walls outside the Neonatal Unit at University Hospital, Coventry will give hope to the parents of hundreds of premature babies cared for at the hospital each year.

Ten-year-old Noah Higginson (pictured) is amongst those photographed. When he and his twin brother George were born, just 23 weeks into pregnancy, their heads were the size of tennis balls, their skin see-through and their eyelids still fused together. Sadly, George died five days after



being born, but Noah amazed doctors and defied the less than 5% chance the twins were given of survival.

His mum Claire said: "He spent 112 days in the Unit, it was a complete rollercoaster of emotions; some days it felt like we took two steps forward and four steps back. We think these pictures are a fantastic idea."

Neonatal Unit Sister, Jo Bradshaw said: "The idea behind the photographs is to give hope to parents who have the shock of finding themselves with a premature baby. For babies

■ Noah with his portrait and inset when he was born premature.

born as early as 23 weeks into pregnancy it can be a particularly long road to recovery. They can spend six months on the Unit. We hope the photographs give hope to worried parents."

The exhibition is thanks to University Hospital Voluntary Services Charity.

Winter blues help

SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder - affects approximately two million people in the UK. Symptoms of SAD include lethargy, low energy levels, sleep disturbance, increased anxiety, and carbohydrate and sugar cravings.

Many other people suffer from a mild version of SAD, called subsyndromal SAD or, more commonly, 'winter blues'.

The Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) service provides a range of treatments for Seasonal Affective Disorder and other forms of depression. They provide Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, as well as other treatments.

Individuals aged 16 and over who have a GP based within the Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull areas can refer themselves to the IAPT service by ringing 024 7667 1090. Alternatively, people can talk to their GP or other health professional for assistance in accessing the IAPT service.

Sharing stories of depression

'It Takes Balls to Talk' is a new mental health awareness campaign, launched in Coventry, to encourage men to feel positive about talking about their mental health.

Former Coventry City striker Leon McKenzie, is backing the project. As the end of his professional football career approached, Leon experienced a painful journey to the depths of a debilitating depression, which led him to an attempt to take his life. However, with support, he has built his own route to recovery. Now he's a boxer, working towards the English Super Middleweight title.

"It's true," he said. "It really does take a lot of bravery to speak up. Life can be tough, and sometimes it really does take balls to talk. That's why I am glad to support this campaign and give my time."



■ Leon McKenzie supporting the new mental health campaign.

"Hopefully others will see from my story – and others shared as part of the campaign – that no matter how bad it feels, you are not alone. There are services that can help you, too."

You can find out more about the campaign on Twitter (@ballstotalk), Facebook (ittakesballstotalk), or online at: www.ittakesballstotalk.com



Wave Rave

People from across the city came together for the first ever Wave Rave as part of an evening of swimming, music and chit chat.

Wave Rave was created by a group which is passionate about people having access to positive swimming experiences, called 'Swim and Tonic'.

Naomi Brook, Lifestyles Project Manager for Coventry City Council and long-time Swim and Tonic member, said: "It was

great to have so many people join. People can keep active in a fun way and you could meet and mingle with new people."

People of all abilities attended and helped to put the event together.

If you would like to be part of planning future events, or have other ideas for making swimming fun, please visit www.tinyurl.com/waveravedebrief

■ Harry, DJ'd on the night. (front). Plus wave ravers .

'80s revival gig, Robbie and Peter Kay

Music fans will be able to turn back the clock as Tony Hadley, Paul Young, T'Pau, Nik Kershaw, Bananarama, Kim Wilde, Go West, Jason Donovan and other stars of the '80s take to the stage at the Ericsson Indoor Arena.

The Ricoh Arena is hoping the concert, on October 14 2017, will draw a crowd of up to 10,000 at the venue.

Around 1,000 StepBack tickets have gone on immediate sale for

the event – which is being compered by Smooth FM's Nigel Freshman - at www.stepbackconcert.co.uk

The Ricoh Arena has staged a wide variety of concerts in its Ericsson Indoor Arena in the last two years.

The early bird tickets are £45 including booking fee from www.stepbackconcert.co.uk with only 1,000 released. General tickets will go on sale on March 1, at £50 plus booking fee.

Robbie Williams has also announced his highly anticipated 2017 European stadium tour with support from Erasure and will play at the Ricoh on Tuesday 13 June. For tickets visit RobbieWilliams.com/tickets

Peter Kay is literally dancing for life next year at the Ricoh as he plans to DJ at his dance-a-thon parties with all of the profits going to Cancer Research UK.



Tickets for the three-hour dance-a-thons are £28.50 each. Peter said: "All people have to do is turn up and dance. I'd also like to encourage people to get themselves sponsored via JustGiving.com

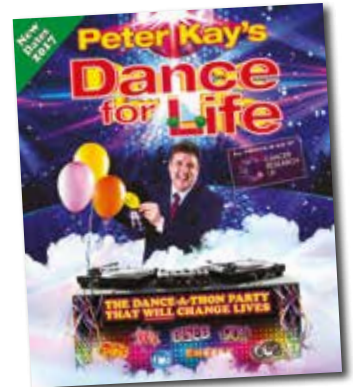
where a special Dance For Life team page has been set up."

Tickets are available for Friday 3 March in the Ericsson Indoor Arena at the Ricoh, visit

www.gigsandtours.com or call 0844 811 0051.

www.ticketmaster.co.uk or call 0844 826 2826.

Tickets are limited to over 18s.



DON'T FORGET our offices and most Council buildings are closed over Christmas

from **Friday 23 December 2016**
until **Tuesday 3 January 2017**

Our website is always open at www.coventry.gov.uk but if it's urgent you can contact us on 024 7683 3333.

Sorry we're
CLOSED

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



www.coventry.gov.uk

Building bridges to jobs



■ Photo caption (left to right) Phil Manning - BAM Construct UK, Workforce Manager, Julie Venn-Morton - Skills and Growth Manager, Coventry City Council, Abdourahim Njie - Building and Construction Apprentice and Peter Brady - Apprentice Scheme Manager - BAM Construct UK.

The Coventry and Warwickshire Construction Shared Apprenticeship Scheme picked up two awards at the Coventry and Warwickshire Apprenticeship Awards 2016, winning the 'Partnership Initiative of the Year Award' and The 'Building and Construction Apprentice of the Year' award was won by apprentice Abdourahim Njie.

Councillor Kevin Maton was delighted to collect the scheme award and said it highlighted the benefits of public and private sector partnership working.

He said: "The Coventry and Warwickshire Apprenticeship Awards are a great example of how local talent can flourish through apprenticeships.

"The Council has just launched

its apprenticeship strategy in a bid to help hundreds of young people prepare for working life.

"The talent on display at these awards is vital to ensure that the local economy has the skills required to meet future needs and to continue to drive the development of the region."

The scheme is a partnership between Coventry City Council, BAM Construct UK and local colleges to act as a role model for apprentices and make it easier for employers as it gives apprentices a supported route of entry into employment.

Abdourahim Njie, is a bricklayer on the Shared Apprenticeship Scheme placed with Barratt Homes.

For more details visit www.coventry.gov.uk/apprenticescheme

Students seek city harmony

Student Wardens are helping build bridges between Coventry University and city residents as the wardens scheme is rolled out permanently across the community.

Coventry University Students' Union has extended its volunteer wardens programme to help students and residents get closer together.

The scheme is led by volunteers who liaise with residents in problem areas to identify and tackle issues such as bin collections, rubbish and anti-social behaviour, as well as pushing campaigns such as collections for homeless charity, Cyrenians.

The wardens are now a permanent fixture of the university and will extend further into the city.

Student warden, Nicholas Widdowson, said: "We do a lot, from talking about rubbish and graffiti to running campaigns to educate students. It's a pioneering scheme but it is growing.

"A lot of people think all students are bad, and that isn't the case. Hopefully what we do will have a big impact and change that perception."

To sign up, or take part e-mail Aiden Ramsey on ac4663@coventry.ac.uk or call 024 7765 5224.

Graduates keep it in the family



■ All smiles for mum, Diane and daughter, Azara.

A proud mother and daughter will graduate side by side after taking on university life with something most would leave behind – each other.

Azara Queen and her mother, Diane have spent three years on the same criminology and psychology course at Coventry University - studying together, living together and even working together in the same part-time job.

The self-proclaimed best friends, who will graduate with matching 2:2 degrees, show no signs of parting ways after signing up on the same masters course.

Azara, aged 26 said: "We both wanted to go to university and

the bonus was that this way, we could do it together.

"We never get sick of each other, mum is my best friend. It's been incredible, I just don't know how people do it without their mum."

Diane, 49, is hoping her story will encourage older people to go back into education.

She said: "I don't think it is strange at all. We've both managed to get so much out of it and it gave me the confidence to do something I might not otherwise have done.

"It's a lot of hard work but so worth it, and even better that I did it with my daughter."

Joining the race to build electric car



■ Students gear up for challenge.

Local budding engineers from Howes Primary School will be working alongside researchers from WMG, at the University of Warwick, to get a taste of what a career in engineering is really like by building and racing their own electric vehicles.

"The IET Formula Goblin competition is an excellent initiative which shows young people some of the fun and rewarding ways that they can engage with science and engineering subjects."

The Greenpower Education Trust looks to address the skills gap that is growing in the UK automotive industry by engaging students in engineering at a young age.

Pupils aged 9 to 11 will be given their own electric kit cars to design, build and race - guided by their teachers and supporting mentors from WMG and engineering students from Warwick.

The children will then compete with their car in a regional Greenpower IET Formula Goblin race, scheduled to take place towards the end of the school year in 2017.

"Our whole school community is extremely excited about being given the opportunity to take part in this amazing project."

Professor David Greenwood from WMG said: "We are delighted to be working with Howes Primary School on this exciting project to build and race their own electric car. "The IET Formula Goblin competition is an excellent initiative which shows young people some of the fun and rewarding ways that they can engage with science and engineering subjects.

"Howes were selected as our winner's based on their highly creative and innovative poster submission showing the ways that they think people will travel in the year 2050."

Sioux Cooke, Head Teacher of Howes Primary School, said: "Our whole school community is extremely excited about being given the opportunity to take part in this amazing project.

Engineering is a key focus for us as we have just embarked on a three-year European STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) project."

Willenhall Library move



■ Cllr Kevin Maton, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills with Claire Fitzroy (right).

Willenhall Library has relocated to the Hagard Community Space and initial signs are looking positive for the new venue - just a short walk from the previous site.

After working with the local community the library space is bright and welcoming, with a great selection of books for all ages, ICT and information. The library also has access to a far wider range of advice and help.

Visitors to the library can also meet with Coventry Independent

Advice Services, Food Bank and Youth Services. A Luncheon club also operates from the Hagard.

The new venue for the library follows a consultation to look at ways of achieving £3.8m savings as part of Connecting Communities across libraries, children's centres, nurseries and youth services.

The relocation of Willenhall Library follows talks with residents and community groups.

Results of the Connecting Communities programme will be outlined in early 2017.

Take it easy and sign up to paperless billing

Thousands of people already receive their Council tax bill by e-mail.

Sign up now at www.coventry.gov.uk/paperlessbilling



Basic computer courses

City libraries are encouraging people to join Learn My Way – a series of courses and drop-in sessions for people who want to expand their digital skills for free.

Staff can help library visitors navigate www.learnmyway.com. Courses are limited so people interested will need to book.

Allesley Park Library - Saturdays from 11am - 12noon
Phone: 024 7678 5813 or e-mail: allesleypark.library@coventry.gov.uk

Bell Green Library - Saturdays 2pm - 4pm
Phone: 024 7678 5818 or e-mail: bellgreen.library@coventry.gov.uk

Jubilee Crescent Library - Tuesdays from 10am - 12noon
Phone: 024 7678 6981 or e-mail: jubileecrescent.library@coventry.gov.uk

Jubilee Crescent Library - Thursdays from 1pm - 3pm
Phone: 024 7678 6981 or e-mail: jubileecrescent.library@coventry.gov.uk

Stoke Library - Fridays from 9am - 11am
Phone: 024 7678 6990 or e-mail: stoke.library@coventry.gov.uk

Digital drop-in sessions

Want some quick tips, with e-mails, Facebook and shopping online? Check out the sessions below. No booking required.

Aldermoor Library - Fridays from 9.30am - 11.30am
Phone: 024 7678 8438 or e-mail: aldermoor.library@coventry.gov.uk

Caludon Library - Fridays from 9.30am - 11.30am
Phone: 024 7678 8300 or e-mail: caludon.library@coventry.gov.uk

Canley Library - Tuesdays from 11am - 12noon
Phone: 024 7678 6963 or e-mail: canley.library@coventry.gov.uk

Canley Library - Fridays 10am - 11am
Phone: 024 7678 6963 or e-mail: canley.library@coventry.gov.uk

Cheylesmore Library - Saturdays from 10am - 11am
Phone: 024 7678 6966 or e-mail: cheylesmore.library@coventry.gov.uk

Coundon Library - Saturdays from 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Phone: 024 7678 6969 or e-mail: coundon.library@coventry.gov.uk

Earlsdon Library - Thursdays from 10am - 11am
Phone: 024 7678 6970 or e-mail: earlsdon.library@coventry.gov.uk

Finham Library - Saturday from 10.30am - 11.30am
Phone: 024 7678 6974 or email: finham.library@coventry.gov.uk

Hillfields Library - Thursday from 11am - 12noon
Phone: 024 7678 6980 or e-mail: hillfields.library@coventry.gov.uk

Tile Hill Library - Monday and Fridays from 2pm - 3pm
Phone: 024 7678 6785 or email: tilehill.library@coventry.gov.uk

Willenhall Library - Fridays from 11am - 12noon
Phone: 024 7678 6991 or e-mail: willenhall.library@coventry.gov.uk

Health tips and e books

There are plenty of free sessions to help people to feel healthier at Foleshill and Jubilee Libraries.

Health Checks by the Be Active Be Healthy Team are held on Mondays 9am – 3pm. On Monday 9 January, 2pm – 3pm, take part in a digital learning session on the NHS Website and access health information.

On Monday 16 January 3pm – 4pm a similar session will help people get access to library health books. A beginners' Conservation Group is also being held every Monday from 1.30pm to 2.30pm and every

Thursday 9.30am – 10.30am.

Jubilee Library is also promoting wellbeing throughout January, including a digital learning session on how to download e books available from Coventry Libraries (on Wellbeing) on Monday January 9 from 2pm – 3pm. On Thursday 20 January 1pm – 2pm come and find out all about health and wellbeing books at the library.

Dates are provisional only and may be subject to change at short notice. Contact the library before you visit.

London Road Cemetery



Coventry City Council has secured a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery to help create plans for the £2million restoration and improvement of London Road Cemetery.

The restoration project will focus on the oldest section of the Cemetery (nearest the city centre, between Deasy Road and the railway line) which is of national importance, with a Grade I listing by Historic England.

The plans are part of a wider project that will create a 70 hectare Heritage Park in Coventry, including the Charterhouse, Charterhouse Fields and River Sherbourne.



Cllr Jayne Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services, said: "We want to create the plans for the restoration of the oldest part of the cemetery. It's one of the city's most valuable heritage assets."

The proposals will also support Coventry's bid to become City of Culture in 2021.

To stay up to date with what's happening with the London Road Cemetery restoration plans, including how you can get involved, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/lrc



Can you dig it? Yes we can



■ Joining together for tree planting at Coombe.

Coombe Country Park has been marking the role played by Capability Brown, who transformed landscapes all over the country during the 18th Century, including Coombe Abbey in 1771.

His work includes the lake within the park, which took over 10 years to dig out.

One of the signature trees of

Capability Brown was the Cedar of Lebanon, which is native to the plains of the Savannah, and so Coombe Country Park planted three Cedar of Lebanon trees in his memory and to finish the restoration work on the area.

Cllr Harvard, Lord Mayor of Coventry, said: "The tree planting is a lovely way to finish the work on the Old Deer Park."

Remembering the fallen



Dozens of people joined together at the Coventry War Memorial Park to remember and pay respects to those who lost their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts.

A parade was followed by hymns, readings and the laying of wreaths.

The service was led by The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, the Lord Bishop of Coventry.

The day also marked the 70th anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of Entry to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment to Coventry in 1946. This year, the parade was led by their

"As a city of peace and reconciliation, it will always be important to pay our respects and remember all those who have lost their lives in or as a result of wars and armed conflict."

successors, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Coventry's Lord Mayor, Councillor Lindsley Harvard (pictured) said: "As a city of peace and reconciliation, it will always be important to pay our respects and remember all those who have lost their lives in or as a result of wars and armed conflict."

Army reserve call

159 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps prides itself on being the Midlands' Logisticians. With its headquarters in Canley, Coventry, the local Army Reserve has a family feel throughout.

The Reserves have recently set up a successful Access to Logistics (A2L) course - a 10 week package aimed at those who have spare time in summer 2017.

Candidates taking part will get to obtain a driving licence (if they haven't one already), a guaranteed interview with DHL and all food and

accommodation paid for. Plus participants earn up to £5,500 after completing the 10 weeks.

The Regt has also found time to send personnel on a variety of adventure training exercises.

Reserves need to be between 18 and 50 and to commit a proportion of their spare time to the Regiment.

If you would like more information on how to be a part of the local Army Reserves then search '159 Regiment RLC'.

Alternatively you can find them on Twitter @159Regiment, call 024 7685 4911 or e-mail rlc159regt@hotmail.com for further information.

Warming things up this winter

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

War Memorial Park

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

Coombe Country Park

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

Tot waddles - Every Friday

War Memorial Park (10.30am - 12noon, £3.50 per child). Go on a little adventure before coming inside for some arts and crafts. Dress appropriately for the weather. Suitable for two to four-year-olds but younger accompanying siblings welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Ranger Volunteer Day Every third Wednesday in the calendar month

Various locations – Good fresh air and healthy exercise! Join the Park Service Rangers 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: 07831 582854. Suitable for adults.



Visit Santa at the Transport Museum.

Fitness trail

An outdoor fitness trail has been installed in Coventry's War Memorial Park. It includes nine pieces of wooden fitness equipment accompanied by exercise suggestions. The project was led by the Friends of War Memorial Park and supported by Coventry City Council, individual donations and a £16,000 grant from WREN's FCC Community Action Fund. More information at www.coventry.gov.uk/wmp

DECEMBER

Santa's Grotto at Coombe 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 & 23

Booking and further details available. Sign up to www.coventry.gov.uk/coombenewsletter for the latest information.

Santa Claus is back at Coventry Transport Museum

The beloved sleigh ride housed for over 60 years at the city's Co-op is now a festive fixture at the museum and a new generation of children can enjoy the magic and tradition of a visit to Santa on this extraordinary vintage ride.

Visitors journey to Lapland on the magical mechanical ride, meet Santa and receive a special gift.

Tickets for children (including sleigh ride, meeting Santa and gift) are £5, with accompanying adults £1.50. Adult single tickets are £5 so everyone can join in the fun. It is open daily 10am to 4.30pm. The sleigh ride is on until 23 December.

For information call 024 7623 4270. For more details about events visit www.transport-museum.com

Live and Die

A celebration of The Enemy from 20 January 2017 to November 2017 at The Coventry Music Museum.

FEBRUARY

20 – Love your River Rangers' activities (1.30pm – 3pm, free, no booking required). Lake View Park, meet by the bridge across the river. Join the rangers for outdoor fun and games with a watery theme and learn more about the River Sherbourne. Tel: 024 7683 3372. Suitable for families. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

21 – Big Birds' Breakfast Coombe Country Park (10am – 10.45am or 11am – 11.45am, £3 per child). Make your own bird feeders at Coombe to take home. Suitable for three-year-olds and over.

21 – Pet Bug Rocks Coombe Country Park (1pm – 1.45pm or 2pm – 2.45pm, £3 per child). Get creative and decorate your very own

pet bug rock to take home. Suitable for families.

22 – Love your River Rangers' activities (1.30pm – 3pm, free, no booking required.) Charterhouse Field (off London Rd), meet by the small car park before the bridge. Join the rangers for outdoor fun and games with a watery theme and learn more about the River Sherbourne. Tel: 024 7683 3372. Suitable for families. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

22 – Pet Bug Rocks Coombe Country Park (10am – 10.45am or 11am – 11.45am, £3 per child). Get creative and decorate your very own pet bug rock to take home. Suitable for families.

22 – Big Birds' Breakfast Coombe Country Park (1pm – 1.45pm or 2pm – 2.45pm), £3 per child). Make your own bird feeders at Coombe to take home. Suitable for three-year-olds and over.

23 – Trunk Trouble War Memorial Park (1.30pm – 3pm, £3.50 per child, booking not essential). Come and join the Education Team for some arts and crafts fun. Make your very own herd of elephants from various materials to take home with you. Suitable for families.

24 – Animal Allsorts War Memorial Park (1.30pm – 3pm, £3.50 per child, booking not essential). Come and join the Education Team to paint a Plaster of Paris animal (various sorts available), and make other animal arts and crafts to take home. Suitable for families.

MARCH

Save the Date

A wedding fayre will be held at St Mary's Guildhall and Cheylesmore Manor on Sunday 5 March 2017.

Visit Santa

Children £5
Accompanying adult £1.50

Opens at 10.00am. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

COVENTRY
Transport
MUSEUM

Experience the true magic of Christmas with a wonderful ride on the Co-op Sleigh, now at Coventry Transport Museum!

24 November - 23 December





For full details please go to www.transport-museum.com
We reserve the right to close the ride early.

warwick arts centre

WHAT'S ON

2016/17

 <p>STICK MAN</p> <p>From the book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, creators of <i>The Gruffalo</i></p> <p>Thu 24 Nov – Sat 31 Dec Age 3+</p> <p><small>Stick Man images reproduced by permission of Alison Green Books an imprint of Scholastic Ltd Text © 2016 Julia Donaldson Illustrations © Axel Scheffler</small></p>	<p>DANCE</p> <p>This is an Irish dance by Jean Butler Thu 26 – Sat 28 Jan</p> 	<p>MUSIC</p> <p>Ruby Turner Fri 27 Jan</p> 	<p>FAMILY</p> <p>In A Pickle Wed 1 – Sun 5 Feb Ages 3 – 5</p> 	<p>FAMILY</p> <p>Wow! Said the Owl Tue 21 – Thu 23 Feb Ages 2 – 5</p> 
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Warwick Arts Centre – the region's biggest arts and entertainment venue with restaurant, bars, café, gallery and FREE parking after 6pm

Warwick Arts Centre
@warwickarts
warwickarts

Box Office 024 7652 4524
warwickartscentre.co.uk

Warwick Arts Centre
The University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL

I BABLAKE



Cllr Glenn Williams
Tel: 07852 922366 or e-mail
glenn.williams@coventry.gov.uk



Cllr David Kershaw CBE JP
Tel: 024 7671 1107 or
07850 664576 or e-mail
david.kershaw@coventry.gov.uk
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 Jaswant Birdi
Tel: 07931 364268 or e-mail
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.

I BINLEY AND WILLENHALL



Cllr Christine Thomas
Tel: 07908 228112 or
024 7683 1030 or e-mail
christine.thomas@coventry.gov.uk



Cllr Ram P Lakha OBE
Tel: 024 7683 1030 or e-mail
ram.lakha@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment or home visit
please contact me.



Cllr John Mutton
Tel: 024 7683 1030 or e-mail
john.mutton@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment or advice please
contact me.

I CHEYLESMORE



Cllr Roger Bailey
Tel: 024 7683 1101 (day)
or e-mail
roger.bailey@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Rois Ali
Tel: 07908 228109 or
024 7683 1030 or e-mail
rois.ali@coventry.gov.uk
Follow me on twitter
@RoisCheylesmore and
facebook Rois4Cheylesmore



Cllr Richard Brown
Tel: 07563 729215 or
024 7683 1039 or e-mail
richard.brown@coventry.gov.uk

I EARLSDON



Cllr Ken Taylor OBE
Tel: 024 7667 3717
ken.taylor@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Michael Hammon
Tel: 024 7683 1039 for an
appointment or e-mail
michael.hammon@coventry.gov.uk



Cllr Allan Andrews
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
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

I FOLESHILL



Cllr Tariq Khan
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or
07415 534267 or e-mail
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



Cllr Balvinder Kaur
Tel: 07957 539615
balvinder.kaur@coventry.gov.uk

I HENLEY



Cllr Patricia Seaman
Tel: 07813 528963 or
024 7683 1030 or e-mail
pat.seaman@coventry.gov.uk



Cllr Kevin Maton
Tel: 07852 450953 or
024 7683 1030 e-mail
kevin.maton@coventry.gov.uk



Cllr Ed Ruane
Tel: 07817 218137 or
024 7683 1030 or e-mail
ed.ruane@coventry.gov.uk

I HOLBROOK



Cllr Joe Clifford
Tel: 024 7646 5315 or e-mail
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 1039 or e-mail
rachel.lancaster@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Ann Lucas OBE
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk
Surgery on first Monday of each
month 9.30-10.30am at Holbrook
Health Centre, Wheelwright Lane.

I LONGFORD



Cllr Lindsley Harvard (Lord Mayor)
Tel: 024 7683 3048 (day)
024 7667 5717 (evening) or e-mail
lindsley.harvard@coventry.gov.uk
During the next year 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 7683 1030 or e-mail
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.
Please book for an appointment.



Cllr George Duggins
Tel: 024 7683 1003 or e-mail
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.



Cllr Catherine Miks
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
catherine.miks@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr John McNicholas
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or
07968 498860 or e-mail
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.
Follow me on twitter @CllrJMcNicholas



Cllr Rupinder Singh
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or
07960 962642 or e-mail
rupinder.singh@coventry.gov.uk



Cllr Mal Mutton
Tel: 024 7630 4497 or
024 7683 1039 or e-mail
mal.mutton@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Keiran Mulhall
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
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
(Deputy Lord Mayor)**
Tel: 024 7683 3048 or e-mail
tony.skipper@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



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



Cllr Lynnette Kelly
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
lynnette.kelly@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 MICHAEL'S



Cllr David Welsh
Tel: 07956 307437 or
024 7683 1030 or e-mail
david.welsh@coventry.gov.uk
Second and fourth Friday of the
month, 12noon – 1.00pm, Hope
Centre, Sparkbrook Street.



Cllr Jim O'Boyle
Tel: 024 7669 4873 or
024 7683 1030 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 1030 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 1039 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
Please contact me to make an
appointment.



Cllr Gary Crookes
Tel: 024 7683 1276 (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 1039 (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 Marcus Lapsa
Tel: 07813 528946 or
024 7683 1039 or e-mail
marcus.lapsa@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Tim Mayer
Tel: 07852 218093 or e-mail
tim.mayer@coventry.gov.uk

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 1030 or e-mail
pervez.akhtar@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Jayne Innes
Tel: 024 7647 0411 (home) or
024 7683 1030 (office) 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. 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 Gary Ridley
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
gary.ridley@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



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
024 7683 1030 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 George Duggins, Leader,
Policy and Leadership
Cllr Abdul Khan, Deputy Leader,
Policing and Equalities
(Deputy, Cllr Pervez Akhtar)
Cllr John Mutton,
Strategic Finance and Resources
Cllr Ed Ruane, Children and Young People
(Deputy, Cllr Pat Seaman)
Cllr Kevin Maton, Education and Skills
Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Jobs and Regeneration
(Deputy, Cllr David Welsh)
Cllr Jayne Innes, City Services
(Deputy, Cllr Ram Lakha)
Cllr Faye Abbott, Adult Services
Cllr Kamran Caan,
Public Health and Sport (Deputy, Cllr Rois Ali)
Cllr Linda Bigham,
Community Development
(Deputy, Cllr Christine Thomas)

COMMITTEES

Audit and Procurement
C Cllr Sucha Bains DC Cllr Joe Clifford
Ethics
C Cllr Seamus Walsh
Licensing and Regulatory Committee
C Cllr Tariq Khan DC Cllr Robert Thay
Planning
C Cllr Richard Brown DC Cllr Keiran Mulhall
Scrutiny Co-ordination
C Cllr Rachel Lancaster DC Cllr Rupinder Singh
Finance and Corporate Services
(Scrutiny Board 1) C Cllr Lynnette Kelly
Education and Children's Services
(Scrutiny Board 2) C Cllr Mal Mutton
Business, Economy and Enterprise
(Scrutiny Board 3) C Cllr John McNicholas
Communities and Neighbourhoods
(Scrutiny Board 4) C Cllr Naeem Akhtar
Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board
(Scrutiny Board 5) – C Cllr Damian Gannon

C = Chair DC = Deputy Chair

COVENTRY MPs

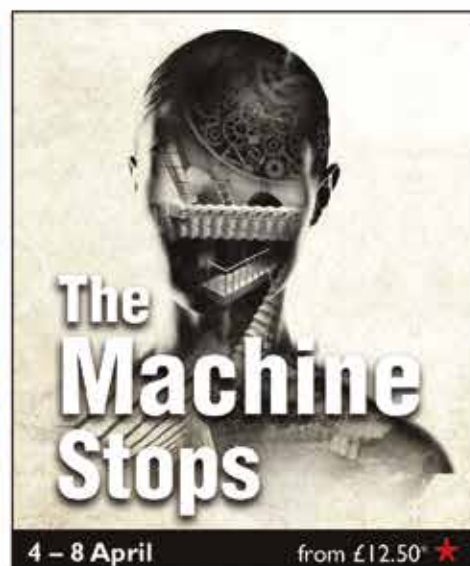
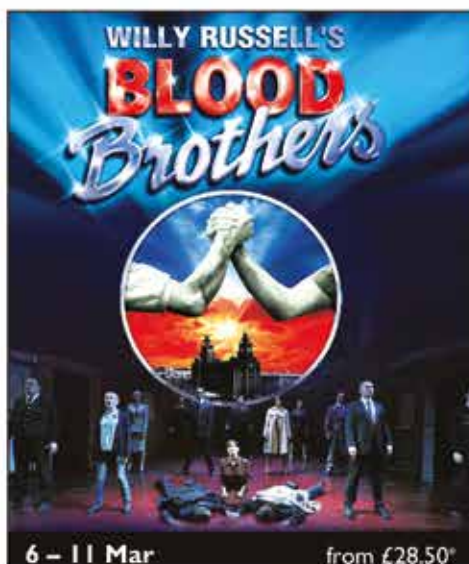
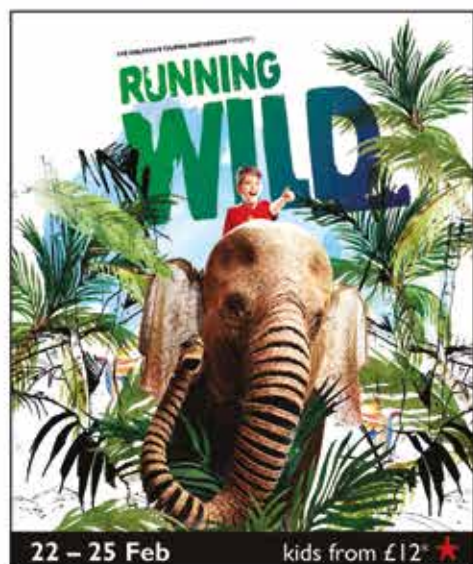
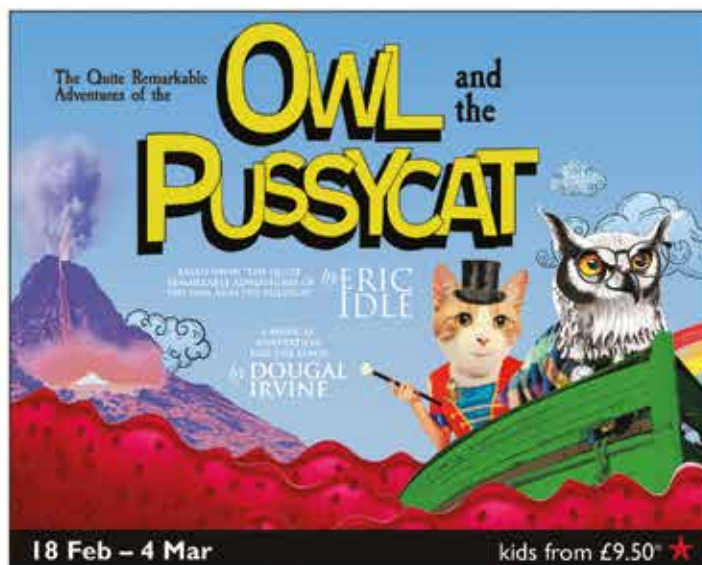
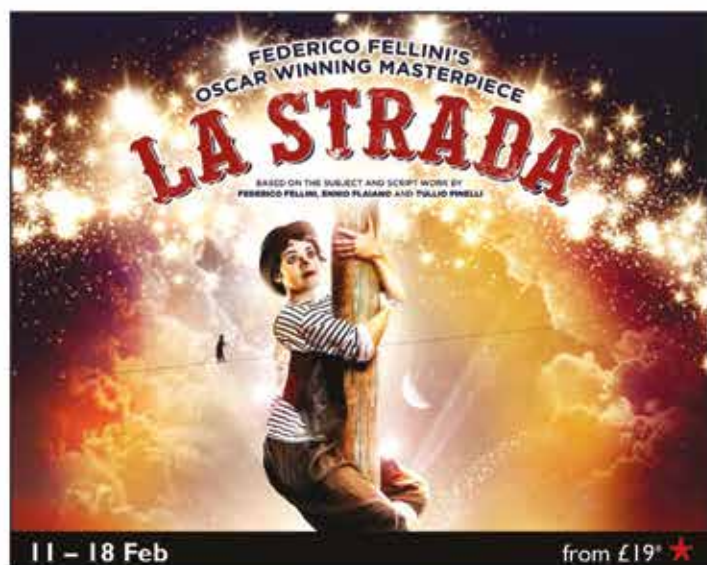
Colleen Fletcher MP
Coventry North East, Call 0207 219 8036
e-mail colleen.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk
Jim Cunningham MP
Coventry South, Call 024 7655 3159
e-mail jim.cunningham.mp@parliament.uk
Geoffrey Robinson MP
Coventry North West, Call 024 7625 7870
e-mail robinsong@parliament.uk

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@danialdaltonmep.co.uk
LABOUR
Neena Gill, call 0121 622 7298
e-mail neenagillmep@gmail.com
Sion Simon, call 0121 569 1911
e-mail sionsimon@sion-simon.org.uk
UKIP
James Carver, call 01562 216020
e-mail mep@jamescarver.org
Bill Etheridge, call 01902 664670
e-mail info@mepukip.com
Jill Seymour call 01952 924040
e-mail enquiries@jillseymourmep.co.uk

POLICE COMMISSIONER

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
David Jamieson 0121 626 6060
For details, visit www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk



Look for the ★ to save 20% off the cost of your full price tickets when you book equivalent amounts for two or more participating shows at the same time. See website for further information on ticket prices and other concessions.

*Ticket prices include a £1 booking fee. No booking fee applies if booked online.