

citivision

issue 63 | winter | 2018

Coventry marks 100 years since the end of WWI



INSIDE:

- 900 years of park life at Coombe Abbey
- Portraits capture life in two city streets
- City business galloping to success





21 November
LIGHT SWITCH ON
 with special guests
RAK-SU

1-2 December
CRIMBO WEEKEND
 AT THE YARD

8-9 December
FESTIVE WEEKENDS

DHILLONS BREWERY
'TREATS AND TIPPLES'
 23 November to 23 December

BUMPER CHRISTMAS HAMPER TO BE WON!

- PLUS**
- SANTA'S SLEIGH RIDE**
Transport Museum
 - CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT**
Coventry Cathedral
 - SLEEPING BEAUTY & SANTA'S SPARKLY SURPRISE**
Belgrade Theatre

#WeLove Santa

www.coventrycitycentre.co.uk

From the top



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

So much on our doorstep

I'm proud to think that the Council has owned Coombe Abbey Country Park since the 1960s.

It's one of the many attractions that the city has to offer, and when the Council decided to invest in Coombe Abbey Park Ltd – which operates the hotel at the park - it made financial sense as any income can be reinvested in frontline Council services.

There are lots of plans for the park and hotel, and I hope that it can go from strength to strength.

Elsewhere, I've been able to see the waterpark take shape, and at the same time we've made progress on the 50m pool at the Alan Higgs Centre.

New restaurants, opening up at Cathedral Lanes, are helping to add to the footfall in the city centre, which is always welcome, particularly as we approach the festive season.

This year's Christmas Lights switch-on is Wednesday 21 November, which will mark the start of late night shopping and other events in the city centre.

I hope that people of all ages can be a part of this.

Any opportunities for investment and growth in the city can only benefit from having a stable and effective infrastructure.

That's why, as a Council, we always aim to ensure our frontline services operate efficiently and effectively – and we manage our finances accordingly.

Finally - reflecting on 100 years since the end of the First World War, we will always remember the fallen, and for their sake we must continue to create a more compassionate world.

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: Wearing our Poppies with pride - Margaret Batten with her team Doreen, Janice, Liz and Robert.

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Call the *Citivision* newsdesk on 024 7683 1075 or write to Newsdesk, Room 73, Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR, or e-mail communications@coventry.gov.uk

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All details correct at the time of going to print (23 October 2018)



■ Pictured (left to right): Terry Stones, Steve Stones, Brian Jackson - Master of the Freemens Guild, Daniel Stones, Lord Mayor John Blundell

Treble honour for city family

The latest **Freemen of the City of Coventry** admitted to the Guild was extra special for one family.

Daniel Stones, completes a family treble alongside his father Steve Stones, who was made a Freeman in 2007, after being an apprentice grinder at Alfred Herbert from 1976-1980 and grandfather Terry Stones, also was made a Freeman in 1953 after serving an apprenticeship as an electrical tester for GEC.

Daniel completed his apprenticeship as a Vehicle Technician at West Way Nissan. Eligibility to become a Freeman means having completed an apprenticeship within 4.5 miles of St Mary's Guildhall, and worked for at least five years in the same trade through an apprenticeship scheme.

Councillor **John Blundell**, The Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry, said:

"It recognises the hard work and dedication that people have shown to a particular profession. I am delighted that this year we have honoured the third generation of one city family. Their story is a snapshot of our city's industrial heritage – with service in firms like GEC, Alfred Herbert and, of course, the motor industry."

To learn more about the Guild, or to apply to become a Freeman, visit the Council website www.coventry.gov.uk/freemen

Support for Universal Credit claimants

The multi-agency 'welfare reform working together group' is urging Universal Credit claimants not to miss out on important entitlements: to Free School Meals, Healthy Start Vouchers and support with their Council Tax.

Universal Credit Full Service (UCFS) began a phased roll out in Coventry in July and over 1,000 new claims have been made.

Many issues have arisen for claimants to overcome but the group believes there are three key entitlements which some UC

claimants are missing out on. Council Tax Support is not part of Universal Credit. UC claimants must apply for CTS separately to their UC claim. Free School Meals can be claimed if income falls below a certain amount. For details visit www.coventry.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Healthy Start Vouchers – which were once called 'milk tokens' but now cover a wide range of milk, fruit and vegetables – are also available to some people on Universal Credit with a low income (mainly pregnant women and those with young children). For details visit www.healthystart.nhs.uk



Getting a taste for creative writing

Libraries across the city are working to provide opportunities for children and young people to get creative through story writing and by developing their digital skills.

Coventry Libraries are launching a creative opportunity encouraging 7 – 15 year olds to design their own e-book. The 'create your own e-book' promotion is open for entries from now until Friday 15 February 2019.

Participants will be tasked to create a five-page story in their own storytelling style, involving original characters visiting Coventry.

Appropriate entries will be uploaded in time for **World Book Day** on 7 March 2019, when entries will be made available via the Library Service's BorrowBox online catalogue to download for free.

Entry forms can be picked up from libraries across the city or downloaded at www.coventry.gov.uk/createanebook



City ahead on full fibre roll out

As one of the first cities in the UK set to benefit from CityFibre and Vodafone's partnership to bring ultrafast full fibre broadband to up to a million UK homes and businesses by 2021, Coventry is already ahead of the game when it comes to digital transformation.

Speaking recently of a £60m investment, **Cllr Jim O'Boyle** Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said:

"By working with CityFibre we are building the next-generation communications infrastructure into our entire city framework. This will help to ensure we are in the best position possible to take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead."

According to economic experts, Coventry could experience significant economic benefits as a result of this giant leap.

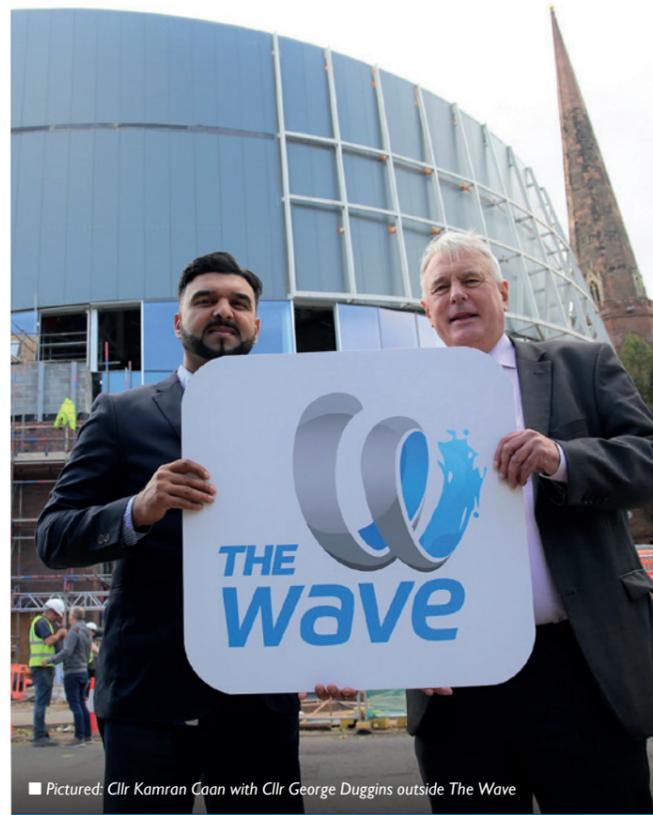
For example, £101m could be added to the value of homes as high speed broadband becomes more attractive to buyers and tenants alike, and business productivity and innovation could be increased by £57m, supporting jobs and growth.

Cllr Richard Brown, added:

"Households are more reliant than ever on effective digital services in the home. Ultrafast broadband can make a positive difference for all the family in their everyday lives; whether it's people working from home or for streaming films. It's good news for the city."

For details visit cityfibre.com/coventry or to register your interest in Vodafone broadband services, go to: vodafone.co.uk/gigafast.

New waterpark named The Wave



■ Pictured: Cllr Kamran Caan with Cllr George Duggins outside The Wave

The **£36.7m waterpark** currently under construction on the former **Spire House** site in the city centre will be called **The Wave**.

The name has been selected because it's short, memorable, descriptive and it has been taken from the design of the building. The logo features a spiral letter 'W' that brings a flavour of a twisting flume ending in a splash of water, making it an innovative and modern design.

Alongside The Wave with its thrill rides and slides, the building will also include a day spa, 25 metre 4 lane swimming pool, 120 station fitness suite, squash courts and dance studio. **Cllr Kamran Caan**, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, said:

"The Wave is the perfect name and in keeping with the design of the building, which is eye catching and memorable. No other city

has this kind of facility in the heart of a city centre. All of this in time to celebrate City of Sport in 2019."

The waterpark includes a splash pad area with jets, tipping buckets and smaller accessible slides for toddlers, easy access areas for people with mobility issues and a wave pool and lazy river.

Leader of Coventry City Council, **Cllr George Duggins**, said:

"We have invested over £30m into The Wave – our biggest single investment in sport and activity – and I think this shows our commitment to get Coventry active."



■ Pictured: Cllr Pat Seaman (centre) with representatives from Empower-U, Wasps, Sky Blues in the Community, YMCA, Positive Youth Foundation, Wild Earth, Valley House, Creative Optimistic Visions, Coventry City of Culture Trust and Rise Comms

Youth offer in city

A new mobile app which hosts a one-stop platform for young people in Coventry has been released.

The Coventry Youth Partnership has launched the app as part of its new website and it will provide a database of activities and events taking place in the city.

Partners from across the city have joined together to provide a calendar of activities for the platform, which has been supported by Coventry City Council.

The app is a place for young people, parents and youth workers to go to find out where they can take part in activities in their local communities.

Most of the provision listed is either free of charge or low price and targets people aged eight to 19.

It will only be accessed directly from the Coventry Youth Partnership website.

The project is also being supported by Coventry City of Culture Trust, as the city builds toward being UK City of Culture in 2021.

The release of the new app and website forms part of a larger city-wide work programme led by the Positive Youth Foundation.

Cllr Pat Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at Coventry City Council added:

"I know there are lots of interesting and exciting things going on in Coventry and this app will help people to find out where they are and how to get involved."

Visit www.coventryyouthpartnership.org to download the new app.

Care for vulnerable adults

Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board is supporting the Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week from Monday 19 November.

During the week, safeguarding partners will be visiting different locations within the city to raise awareness around abuse and neglect of adults.

It will include Willenhall Library, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, the Arena Shopping Park (next to the Ricoh) and the city centre.

If you are concerned about an adult, please contact Adult Social Care Direct on **024 7683 3003** or email ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk. Remember, if it's an emergency, dial **999**.

Electric taxi scheme offer

A unique scheme is underway to encourage cab drivers to move to electric vehicles.

Coventry's "Go Electric Taxi" scheme is supported by LEVC, the Irish energy company ESB, Siemens and taxi app Gett and forms part of an ambitious programme to move towards an electrically-driven taxi fleet in the city.

The scheme includes extended test drives, a financial incentive for the first electric taxi orders, free electric charging during the trial and zero commission fares on taxi app bookings.

To ensure that drivers can benefit from the lower fuel costs of electric vehicle ownership, it was also announced that the first six of 39 rapid charge points have been installed by ESB and Siemens.

The scheme is funded by the Office of Low Emission Vehicles,



■ Pictured (left to right): Sharon Bates LEVC, Cllr Jayne Innes, Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cllr Kamran Caan, Gareth Davis Head of EV Solutions, ESB

the DEFRA's Air Quality fund as well as the companies supporting the project.

The new electric taxi loan scheme and charging points are part of a city-wide drive to cut air pollution and has the backing of the Council and Joint Air Quality Unit.

Cllr Jayne Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services in Coventry, said that she was keen to support local cabbies in helping them to look at options for maintaining their high standards of service.

She added: **"We are very**

proud of the high standards of our licensed taxi drivers, and their key role in welcoming people to the city and supporting the local community and businesses. I'm really keen to see how drivers find the loan scheme."



■ Pictured: Cllr Jim O'Boyle and Miles Garner, Aurigo

City welcomes driverless car demo

A pioneering project to trial driverless cars has been held in Coventry.

The UK Autodrive project is the largest of three projects to have emerged from the UK government's 'Introducing Driverless Cars' competition in 2015, which had the aim of establishing the UK as a global hub for the development of autonomous vehicle technologies.

The project is helping to make roads safer and less congested, air cleaner, and commutes simpler and more efficient.

The partners in the UK Autodrive consortium include

Coventry City Council and Jaguar Land Rover.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said:

"I'm pleased that once again we have been able to show what autonomous and connected cars can do in real road situations.

"With the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre, WMG, JLR and two great universities all based here we are at the very heart of innovation in this area and this work is the natural next step for a city like Coventry."

New rules on HMOs

Changes to the licensing rules for private properties described as houses in multiple occupation (HMO) have been introduced.

A house or building occupied by five or more people of two or more families will be subject to licensing requirements.

It will also include the minimum size of rooms used for sleeping one and two adults in this type of accommodation.

The change of definition will affect private sector landlords.

Rooms used for sleeping one adult will need to be no smaller than 6.51m², while those slept in by two adults

will be at least 10.22m².

Landlords affected will need to offer bedrooms of a reasonable size to tenants, and a number of landlords will be required to secure a licence for an HMO for the very first time.

Cllr Ed Ruane, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, said:

"The new definition for HMOs will mean better controls and regulations on properties which should improve housing standards for tenants."

For details visit www.coventry.gov.uk/hmo

Fuel poverty help

Citizens Advice are promoting the Warm Homes Discount which offers financial help with electricity bills.

Though automatic for some on Pension Credit, others on low income can apply for a £140 discount on their electricity bill; but not all energy suppliers are signed up to the scheme.

Applications for the Warm Home Discount open at different times for each supplier signed up and discretionary awards are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. For details contact your energy supplier or call the Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506.

Employment success for college



Over 50 per cent of students at Hereward College in Coventry have secured paid employment this year as a direct result of their participation in the college's supported internship programme.

The work-based study programme is aimed at young people (aged 16 to 24) who have an education, health and care plan, and need extra support to move into employment.

The college has been running the scheme since 2014 and has worked with Severn Trent, WM Housing, Arlington Automotive, Holiday Inn and Balfour Beatty.

Learners take part in the programme for 10 months with one of the college's partner employers and spend up to 30 hours a week on site.

This year, over 50 per cent of supported interns from the college were offered a job directly with their employer.

Harriet, ex-Hereward student and Holiday Inn Kenilworth employee (pictured left), who has been a part of the internship project, said:

"I was diagnosed with autism at 15 – I was unable to walk down corridors alone. My confidence has grown enormously, and it has been a real journey for me. I love my job the staff are so supportive."

For details visit www.hereward.ac.uk

Stables gallop to success

Moor Farm Stables Equestrian Centre in Corley Moor, Coventry, has been able to expand its business thanks to the Coventry and Warwickshire Skills 4 Growth Project delivered by Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and a number of local delivery partners.

Moor Farm was able to organise and fund accredited training for its staff, which led to the stable offering new courses to cater to new audiences.

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

"Small and medium sized businesses play a vital role in the economy of our city, I'm really pleased that we can continue to support local businesses to help them grow and protect and create jobs"

The project is partly funded by the European Social Fund and receives further funding from Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council.

To find out if your business can benefit from the Skills for Growth project, go to www.coventry.gov.uk/skills4growth



■ Pictured: Back – Paul White and Louise Bennett. Front (left to right): Jeremy Moore, Chris Dobson, David Bradley, Mick Burn

Growth support for businesses

Small and medium sized businesses in Coventry and Warwickshire have been given an insight into how to bid for hundreds of millions of pounds worth of contracts with major organisations in the region.

The Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce's Go For Growth: Trade Local campaign brought together experts in landing contracts with big companies and government bodies.

The launch was led by Louise Bennett, Chief Executive of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, and she was joined by Jeremy Moore, of the CWLEP Growth Hub, in discussing future plans

to make it easier for SMEs to bid for work.

Louise said:

"Go For Growth: Trade Local has been devised to get more companies across the patch doing business with one another, making the most of the goods and services available in the region.

"Our experts also urged businesses to make themselves stand out and seek out opportunities from big organisations because there is definitely a desire to procure locally."



■ Pictured (left to right): Toni Chambers, Emily Beat on the horse Vondel, Liz White, Jaymie Thakordas (CWLEP Growth Hub), Owen Price and Krystina Ford with horse Sam

Keeping in touch

For more details, and the latest news about Coventry City Council visit www.coventry.gov.uk

If you have an article or advert that you think we could include in Citivision call 024 7683 1081 or email communications@coventry.gov.uk



■ Pictured: Cllr Khan with one of the campaigners against modern slavery

Spotlight on modern slavery

Awareness of modern slavery and the exploitation of vulnerable people in the West Midlands has been highlighted at a roadshow in Coventry.

A campaign to put a stop to the practice of modern slavery, is being highlighted by key agencies including the Council, the NHS, and the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network.

Slavery is the fastest growing organised-crime in the world. Many are unaware it exists in communities and businesses.

There are 13,000 suspected victims in the UK.

Coventry City Council's

Deputy Leader, Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, said: "We work hard in the city on issues like domestic abuse and forced marriage, and modern slavery is another hidden crime.

"There is no typical victim. Modern slavery comes in many forms, including sexual exploitation, being forced to commit crimes and working to pay off unrealistic debts."

To report anything suspicious contact **The Modern Slavery Helpline 24/7.** Call FREE on **08000 121 700** or contact www.modernslaveryhelpline.org Remember, if you feel someone is in immediate danger please call 999.



New co-working office space gets the wheels in motion

A new co-working office space in Coventry is getting rave reviews.

The Wheelhouse is a local, friendly office space on Earl Street, working in partnership with Coventry City Council.

Set up especially with freelancers, small businesses and charities in mind, the space is made up of dedicated desks, hot desks, a comfortable relaxed seating area and two meeting rooms with unlimited fresh coffee and events laid on for members.

It has flexible one-month contracts so no locked-in leases.

To try The Wheelhouse for the day for free and see if it works for you email Annabel at hello@thewheelhouses.com or call **01865 920999**. For details, visit www.thewheelhouses.com

Christmas bin collections

Our crews won't be working over Christmas so there will be

▶ **NO collections in the week beginning Monday 24 December.**

BUT there will be an

▶ **EXTRA household (green-lidded bin) waste collection to help out over the festive period.**

▶ **We will also be delivering extra clear sacks for any extra recycling you might have.**



Look out for your calendar with all of the details.

www.coventry.gov.uk/bindays



Getting active in your local park

A new footpath was completed at Caludon Park this summer.

It's one of dozens of parks that have undergone improvements to encourage people of all ages and abilities to be more physically active.

Coventry's Public Health Team has invested in park routes in 44 parks and open spaces.

Distance markers are accompanied by a map of the route in the park/open space.

Children from Wyken Croft Primary School joined other local people to try out the new path.

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, Cllr Kamran Caan, said: *"The scheme is about changing people's lives for the rest of their lives."*

"The new park routes and park markers have enabled us to make better use of the vast amount of green space we have in the city."

For details visit www.coventry.gov.uk/covonthemove

■ New cricket pitches are being created in Coventry parks and open spaces in a partnership between Coventry City Council and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

A grant of over £120,000 from the ECB will see seven non-turf cricket pitches and a five lane cricket net facility developed in local parks across the city.

The pilot project is part of the build up to European City of Sport 2019, which has attracted additional funding for a community cricket co-ordinator.

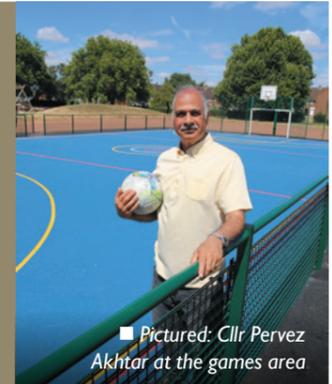
The pitches will be used all year round by local people. Longford Park, Hearsall Common, Stoke Heath, Charterhouse fields, Xcel Leisure Centre, Coundon Hall Park and War Memorial Park will all get non-turf wickets with plans for Edwick Park to have a new five lane cricket net facility.



■ Pictured: Cllrs, the community and schoolchildren at Caludon Park

■ A new games area has been built for local people to take part in a range of community sports at Holbrooks Park.

The MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) was completed at the park – refurbishing an existing basketball facility. The improvements also included a new footpath, four benches and other maintenance work.



■ Pictured: Cllr Pervez Akhtar at the games area

Orchard taking shape in walled garden



■ Pictured (left to right):

Anna Squires (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust), Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Les Fawcett (Coventry Society), Wayne Allen (Allen Arboriculture), Jon Plumley (Coventry Charterhouse Association), Richard Starritt (Severn Trent).

Primary schoolchildren and volunteers have planted trees to create a community orchard in the gardens of one of Coventry's finest medieval buildings.

The Charterhouse, which is a Grade I Listed 14th century Carthusian monastery, is to be transformed by Historic Coventry Trust into a major visitor attraction ahead of Coventry being UK City of Culture in 2021.

The Coventry Charterhouse Association and Charterhouse Residents' Association selected a mix of apple, pear, plum and cherry trees for a mixed fruit orchard.

Local resident and arboriculturalist Wayne Allen, of Allen Arboriculture, and pupils from All Saints Church of England Primary School and Warwickshire

Wildlife Trust volunteers were among those who helped with the work.

Funding from the Postcode Local Trust (part of the People's Postcode Lottery) of £20,000 and a further £5,000 from The Finnis Scott Foundation has covered costs.

Historic Coventry Trust has been working in partnership with the Council to restore the medieval building and its walled gardens and grounds, to create a heritage visitor centre. Cllr Jim O'Boyle, St Michael's ward councillor and Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration at Coventry City Council, said:

"Charterhouse is a really important historical building and one that I hope is secure for future generations to enjoy."

Coventry

UK CITY OF CULTURE 2021

Sunrise at Coventry Cathedral Ruins

Join us for a New Year's Eve live lighting and sound experience in the Cathedral Ruins, which is set to bring in the New Year in style.

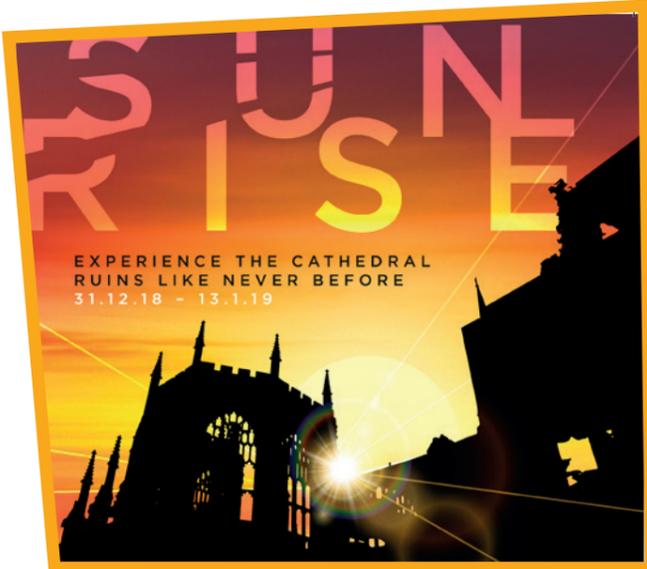
The Coventry City of Culture Trust has teamed up with Coventry Cathedral to bring this spectacular family-friendly event to the city from 31 December to 13 January.

Design practice **NEON**, in collaboration with **Musicity**, transforms the Cathedral Ruins into an ethereal dream-like landscape, which has been inspired by Coventry's ability to triumph in the face of adversity and to overcome great loss with reconciliation.

Sunrise takes us through the pivotal moment of transition from darkness to light. Expect to bathe in waves of graduating colours that change over the duration of the performance through a light installation brought to life by an atmospheric, electronic soundscape entitled "Sunrise Sonata" commissioned specifically for the show.

Premiere performances on NEW YEAR'S EVE with live music – 31 December at 6pm, 9pm and midnight
Running time: 20 mins approximately
Under 16s **FREE**, adults **£5**.
Must be booked in advance.

1 – 13 January, experience the installation with recorded music daily at 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm and 9pm.
Booking not required, all events during this time are **FREE**.



To book for NYE or for more information, visit: coventrycathedral.org.uk/sunrise or call Ticketmaster on 08448 440 444

City of Culture at Godiva Festival

This year's Godiva Festival saw over 115,000 attendees visit the War Memorial Park as part of the three-day event. Coventry City of Culture Trust was delighted to be working with Coventry City Council's Events Team to bring a different flavour to Sunday's proceedings.

The Trust worked with London Mela to take over the Rhythm Tent to present **From Bhangra to Bollywood**: The Sounds of Asian Britain, with acts including **Asian Dub Foundation, Apache Indian, Zack Knight, Jasmin Walia, H Dhami, Raxstar** – who performed alongside Coventry-based **Sunit - Attaullah Khan Esakhelvi, Sanwal Esakhelvi and Abi Sampa**.

Elsewhere, as part of the festival, the Trust worked with Serious Productions to bring **Kinetika Bloco** to the Main Stage crowds. The group, which is made up of an exuberant mix of

75 young dancers; drummers; and brass, woodwind and steel pan players, processed through the Main Stage crowds, finishing at the Coventry 2021 site in the Family Field.

The Main Stage itself saw the sensational **Afriquoi** bring their blistering fusion of 'ridiculously danceable' African rhythms to the Sunday afternoon programme with the help of Serious Productions. The unique five-piece mixed afro beats with electronics, hip-hop, soul and house and certainly had the crowd jumping.

In the Family Field the Trust worked alongside Boudica Festival to host the Paradise Tent's



grand finale: **Stealing Sheep's Suffragette Tribute**. This marching band procession brought together 15 female drummers

and percussionists in unique costumes with AV production inspired by women, equality and empowerment.

Funding Grants

Having won the title 'UK City of Culture 2021' the Coventry City of Culture Trust is keen to support existing and potential partners as it seeks to play a full and active role in the run up to 2021.

Specifically tailored toward artists, social enterprises and charities from across the city, the funding grants are available in two forms: The first is the **Get Ready Fund**, a research and training grant with grants of up to **£2,000** available; the second being the **Road to 2021 Fund** with grants up to

£10,000 for those who wish to trial projects which may feature in our City of Culture year. The application process is being administered by the Heart of England Community Foundation. For full eligibility criteria please visit the Coventry 2021 website. www.coventry2021.co.uk

Artist Surgeries and Artform Development Workshops

In addition to the two funding grants, the team has also set up **Artist Surgeries and Artform Development Workshops** in order to facilitate further conversations and idea generation ahead of the City of Culture year.

The Coventry 2021 Artist Surgeries are 25 minute slots in which local artists can meet with the Creative Director or Programming Team to discuss their own project ideas for 2021; these sessions are run fortnightly.



The monthly genre-specific workshops are open to industry professionals and service providers. Each discussion will be themed toward a specific artform (eg. music, visual art) with sessions running through the winter months.

For more information and to sign-up to the Artist Surgeries or the Artform Development Workshops please visit www.coventry2021.co.uk or call 024 7699 8221.

A Tale of Two Streets

A major photography commission capturing the bustling day-to-day activity on two Coventry streets is currently underway.

A Tale of Two Streets is a Coventry City of Culture Trust Great Place Project and is being produced by the Photo Archive Miners (PAM).

It will feature portrait photography from nine emerging Coventry University graduates and two Coventry College students (see photo below), alongside work from renowned portrait photographer Niall McDiarmid. The project explores the

people and cultures on both Foleshill Road and Far Gosford Street, capturing moments and uncovering the stories of daily life up and down the streets.

The first photographs have now been taken and further images will be shot at different stages over the next few months to complete the work, culminating in an outdoor exhibition in spring 2019. Keep an eye out for further updates in the coming months!

Portrait by Niall McDiarmid on Far Gosford Street



■ Pictured (left to right): Priyanka Ghetia, Nilupa Yasmin, Jonathan Bark, Jamie Clarke Hogg, Abbie Batt, Simian Vim, Thomas Tierney, Alex Taylor



COOMBE ABBEY

no ordinary hotel

Coombe Abbey and its land has been a part of the city's life for almost 900 years. Back in the 12th century, the Abbey of Cumbe was a large monastery and now it is a top hotel, with acres of beautiful parkland for the people of Coventry and Warwickshire to enjoy. Here we take a look at Coombe's amazing story – and what's still to come.

History

The building started life as a monastery in the 12th century, but in 1539 was seized by King Henry VIII in the dissolution.

In 1603, Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King James I, came to the Abbey to be educated and two years later Guy Fawkes, Robert Catesby and the Gunpowder Plot conspirators plotted to kidnap her and put her on the throne after blowing up Parliament. Thankfully the plot failed.

In 1622, the Craven family bought the Abbey and it stayed in their ownership for an incredible 300 years. The family built the

West Wing and brought in Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to landscape the grounds and create the lake

In 1964, Coventry City Council took ownership of the Abbey and its 150 acre estate and two years later the park was opened to the public.

In 1995 Coombe Abbey Hotel opened its doors for the first time. The hotel later became a No Ordinary Hotel.

Designing the landscape

In 1771 Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was commissioned to modernise the landscape and created the serpentine lake, carried out extensive tree planting and designed several buildings, including a boathouse, menagerie and lodge gates. He recorded payments of £7,150 (more than £11m today).

Ghostly goings-on



Day trippers aren't the only ones to drop in at Coombe.

Ghosts that have been spotted over the years include Abbott Geoffrey, a monk who was murdered in 1345, who is spotted as a cowled figure 'floating around the grounds' and a Romany girl,

called Matilda, who is said to be dressed in rags and can be found near the stables.

Other spirits reported at the hotel include a ghostly horseman and a Victorian woman who stands at the roadside.

Take a walk through Coombe



Coombe Country Park has over 500 acres of beautiful, historic woodlands, gardens and a lake to explore, and is a firm favourite for families looking for a day out or just somewhere to enjoy a bit of peace away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

But it's easy to miss out on everything that the park has to offer.

The Country Park has a visitor centre, gift shop and café open every day, along with a discovery centre, two children's play areas, a challenging climbing forest for children 12 and over and a more traditional area for younger children.

Bird watchers can take advantage of a fully accessible bird hide, there are formal gardens and an arboretum, barbecue areas, a wildflower meadow and even

a woodturning workshop and orienteering course.

There is also a well-stocked fishery and organised events throughout the year, including a wide variety of holiday activities for schoolchildren.

The hotel has a range of luxury rooms and runs events from Halloween themed nights to Valentine's Day meals.

There are plans for a high wires assault course and a second café at Top Lodge Pool if given the go-ahead, work could start in the coming months.

Christmas at Coombe

Make Christmas and New Year one to remember this year and celebrate in style at the 12th century Coombe Abbey Hotel.

Christmas and New Year at Coombe Abbey can only be described as truly magical. With an extraordinary programme of events including Mediaeval Banquets, Party Nights, Murder Mystery Evenings, Festive Lunches, Afternoon Teas with carols and New Year's Eve extravaganzas, there is something for everyone this festive season. There is even a festive lunch with Santa, a Gatsby Glamour Ball and a New Year's Eve Black Tie Masquerade.

Ron Terry, General Manager of Coombe Abbey Hotel, said:

"Coombe Abbey Hotel has been a distinct focal point in the beautiful landscape of the park.

"Both the park and the hotel have complemented each other for many years, catering for everyone whether it's families wanting a fun day out or people looking for a bespoke dining experience and stay at a unique venue.

"But the future is bright as well, with many exciting plans moving forward to bring something new for visitors.

"Whatever the reason for the visit, Coombe Abbey continues to be an extremely popular jewel in the crown for the whole community and further afield."

Visit www.coventry.gov.uk/coombe or call the Visitor Centre 024 7645 3720 for what's on at the park including Santa's Grotto this Christmas. For hotel details visit www.coombeabbey.com



Dunsmore Living Landscape

As part of the Dunsmore Living Landscape Project - a partnership with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - the Discovery Centre at the Visitor Centre will soon be receiving a revamp to modernise the visitor experience and better explain the importance of Coombe Country Park in the wider Arden Forest landscape.

Staff at the park are also keen to set up a "Friends of Coombe" group to help look after and develop the site for future generations. We have several volunteers already signed up, so if you want to help on site, please email coombe.countrypark@coventry.gov.uk and ask for the 'Friends of' registration form or sign up when you next visit.

What people say about the venue

"The redwood trees are beautiful, there are plenty of places to sit, rest or admire the scenery. A couple of play areas for the children, small selection of shops and a cafe."

"Decided to go for a walk before indulging in afternoon tea at the hotel. There are three walks, none of them too taxing but all with lovely scenery."

"A lovely park with a shop and discovery centre. Multiple walking routes that include a conservation area and bird watching stations. Couldn't ask for more."

New book captures Coombe's history

A new history of Coombe Abbey – the first to be released in 35 years – is now on sale.

Written by Oxford historian Derek Winterbottom, 'Coombe Abbey, a History through Ten Centuries' is available at the Coombe Abbey Visitors Centre and the Coombe Abbey Hotel, priced at £12.50.

Mental health matters

With mental health problems affecting one in four of us, too often people are afraid to talk about their experiences because they fear the response and stigma they may experience.

Organisations including Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council, have been highlighting the work of Rise; Coventry and Warwickshire's emotional wellbeing and mental health service for children and young people.

The service focuses on prevention, early help and building resilience. To find out more visit www.cwrise.com.

For information about the range of mental health and wellbeing services, including face-to-face, telephone, online and self-help resources available in Coventry, visit: www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk or www.coventry.gov.uk/mentalhealth or talk to your GP.



■ Pictured: Pathway Manager and Matron, Nicole Vutabwarova, reviews the monitor

New flu vaccine available

A local doctor is urging people aged over 65 to protect themselves from flu.

This year, a more effective vaccine is available in the UK for those aged 65 and over.

Dr Charles Ashton, Medical Director at South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust, says it is important because older adults' bodies do not respond as well to the flu vaccine due to their weaker immune systems. Older adults are also more likely to suffer complications from flu.

He said: **"Flu is serious and kills on average 8,000 people a year. Adults over 65 are more likely to get flu and experience complications."**

It is also free for eligible adults under 65, including pregnant women and those with long term health conditions. Children aged two to nine are also eligible.

To get your jab, just contact your GP or a participating pharmacy to arrange an appointment.

Working together to prevent suicide

Every 90 minutes in the UK, someone takes their own life; in many areas the figure is higher than those killed in road accidents. Nationally, suicide is the leading cause of death for males under 49 years old and of females under 34 years old.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, in partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Mind, offers two initiatives available to members of the public: the Recovery and Wellbeing Academy FREE courses, visit: www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/recovery-wellbeing To find out about all mental health services in Coventry, visit www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk or talk to your GP.



Pictured: Clinical skills lecturer Ray Graham with student nurse Katie Hughes in one of the Alison Gingell building's mock intensive care units.

Ever thought of a career in nursing?

Nursing students have been showing their clinical skills in Coventry city centre.

The event was part of a nationwide campaign run by Health Education England (HEE) to encourage more people to think about pursuing a career in nursing or allied health professions, such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Nursing students demonstrated their clinical skills and first aid training with mock patients, and a hospital bed in the city centre.

IT TAKES BALLS TO TALK

For information about 'It takes balls to talk', visit: ittakesballstotalk.com For information about the Recovery and Wellbeing Academy FREE courses, visit: www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/recovery-wellbeing To find out about all mental health services in Coventry, visit www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk or talk to your GP.

Coventry University students and staff hope their hands-on training methods encourage people to find out about career options.

The campaign to inspire new health professionals comes amid NHS staff shortages and as applications to study nursing and health subjects at university have dropped.

At the same time, the government has increased the number of places available to study nursing at university.

For more details visit www.coventry.ac.uk



Getting to grips with quitting smoking

Coventry Rugby Club players have been highlighting the benefits of stopping smoking as part of the annual Stoptober.

Some of the team highlighted – quite literally – the way to tackle smoking.

Expert face-to-face advice is available from local stop smoking services. People who seek help are up to four times more likely to quit successfully. Many former smokers say that they feel liberated after cutting out the habit.

The stop smoking support services can provide gum, lozenges and sprays – which might be helpful in first few days. For details visit www.hlscoventry.org

NHS heroes making us proud

A long-serving NHS matron who cares for premature and unwell babies, and caring volunteers who support patients at the end of their lives were among the winners at the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW Outstanding Service and Care Awards).

Rose Blake, Neonatal Matron, was the big winner of the night, taking home two prizes.

Rose, who has worked for the NHS in Coventry for 36 years, and leads a team caring for the Trust's youngest patients, won both the Compassion in Care and Leader of the Year awards.

Rose, said:

"Winning was only possible because of the amazing teams I've been privileged to work with over the last 36 years, and these prizes are really for them."

"I've felt supported throughout my career, and I'm incredibly proud to work in the NHS."

The Support for the Dying Companions took home the prize for Volunteer of the Year. The caring volunteers work at both University Hospital in Coventry and the Hospital of St Cross in Rugby, supporting people in the last days or hours of their life. They sit with, talk or read to people, and can offer support to their families too.



Pictured: Double winner Rose Blake

Red Bag Project making a difference in an emergency

Coventry City Council has been working in partnership with local organisations to deliver the Red Bag Project.

The Red Bag Project is a new service for people in Coventry care homes. It contains important information about a resident in a care home, it also includes their medication, personal clothes and belongings, so hospital staff have the right information if the resident needs to go into hospital in an emergency.

The project is being delivered in partnership with organisations across the city, such as **Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, West Midlands Ambulance Service, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire and care homes.**

Cllr Faye Abbot, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, said:

"This project exemplifies how efficiently Coventry works with partner organisations across the city to deliver services.

"There are 11 care homes taking part in the scheme already. It's such a simple process that really can make all the difference to people who are rushed into hospital for emergencies."



Pictured:
Cllr Faye Abbott
Kiera Chesters West Midlands Ambulance Team Leader
Jane Scoular (Coventry City Council)
Ross Palmer Associate Director of Nursing (UHCW)
Lisa Taylor Commissioning Officer (Coventry City Council)
Sandra Fulton Care Homes Lead Nurse (Coventry and Rugby CCG)

Outstanding young people



■ Pictured: The Voices of Care team with David Jamieson

Coventry's Voices of Care Council has scooped the Outstanding Citizens' Award at the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's annual awards.

Voices of Care is a group of young people in care, some aged as young as nine, who give up their free time to advise the authorities on how they can better look after vulnerable young people.

The group members each volunteer up to 20 hours per week to advise local councils, NHS, police, charities and universities on how they can do more to support children in care.

Shianne Kinchen and Charlie Cooke are two of the volunteers. Shianne said:

"Voices of Care helps young people to understand their rights and gain a sense of belonging. I believe the work we do is vital in making sure that services for young people are fit for purpose."

Whilst Charlie added:

"We hope more people will find out about the work we do and this will help reduce the stigma of being a kid in care."

If it's not 999, search: WMP Online

West Midlands Police have launched a brand new live chat service on their website.

Live chat gives helps people to report all non-emergency crime online and speak to an adviser anytime between 8am - midnight seven days a week.

It allows residents to then track the progress of their case.

People can self-report burglary, theft, robbery and criminal damage.

Cases reported to the live chat service will receive the same level of service as those made by phone to West Midlands Police. In an emergency call 999.

Remembering 100 years since First World War

Coventry is marking 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War this November.

It will be a date that will resonate with young and old in the city, as despite the passing of time, and the suffering and sacrifice of so many, conflict sadly still remains throughout the world.

A series of events are being held to reflect on the Great War and to ultimately work towards creating a more friendly and tolerant world.

Many people from Coventry

died in battle or returned home dreadfully wounded in mind, body and spirit at the end of the First World War.

Many also toiled in factories and fields, doctors and nurses tended to the wounded.

The relief that the battle was over was tinged with the sadness felt by women who lost husbands, sons and sweethearts during the dark days of 1914 to 1918.

We will always remember them.

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

Help us improve air quality

Emissions from transport are a significant contributor to poor air quality across the country and in areas of Coventry.

That's why there is a city-wide Air Quality Management Area in place and why the Council and its partners are working to improve air quality by encouraging sustainable travel and tackling traffic congestion.

Reducing emissions from transport, particularly Nitrogen Dioxide, is a major objective of this work and the Council will soon be publishing an air quality action plan setting out how this will be achieved – and it is important to hear what local people think about the plan before it is submitted to Government.

During November, residents will be able to give their views and suggestions, identify any gaps, and work with the Council to develop a plan that will work for the city, and achieve the objective of improving air quality.

Information on the plan, and the proposed measures, will be published on the Council's website, and the Council will also be hosting a variety of drop-in sessions and inviting people to reply to the consultation online or in writing.

For more details about what is underway already and for information on how you can participate in the consultation, please visit www.coventry.gov.uk/airquality

Scrumming down for grassroots rugby



■ Pictured: More than 220 Coventry primary school children attended the Engage! Coventry Mega Tag Rugby Festival

Coventry's biggest ever seven-a-side school tag rugby festival took place over the summer to shine a light on the impact of grassroots activity taking place in the city.

More than 220 Coventry primary schoolchildren attended the Engage! Coventry Mega Tag Rugby Festival at Earlsdon RFC.

It was an opportunity for pupils to display the values of rugby that they had been taught via a mixture of classroom and practical activities over 12 weeks.

These values include integrity, enjoyment, discipline, teamwork and respect.

Stuart Bird, from Engage! has helped to deliver the programme to more than 4,000 of the city's school children since its inception two years ago.

He said:

"We are thrilled to see the uptake of our programme going from strength-to-strength."

For more information visit www.engagecoventry.com

Cathedral backdrop for cyclists

Coventry will be on the route of the second largest road cycling event next May, during its year as City of Sport.

Vélo Birmingham and Midlands will see around 17,000 riders set off from Birmingham on a 100 mile route, which goes through city suburbs and past the iconic Coventry Cathedral.

After setting off from Birmingham, riders will travel through Solihull, Warwickshire,

Coventry, Dudley and Sandwell. Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader at Coventry City Council, responsible for Events, said:

"The Cathedral, will offer a stunning backdrop for cyclists, and I'm sure the public will come out and support the event."

Interested riders can pre-register at www.velobirmingham.com

Starting Primary School

Children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 can start school in September 2019

You can find out all you need to know about school admissions and apply online up until 15 January 2019

www.coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you require further advice you can telephone the School Admissions Team on **024 7683 1613**

Apply in time to give your child the best chance of getting one of your preferred schools



Apply online by 15 January 2019



www.coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions

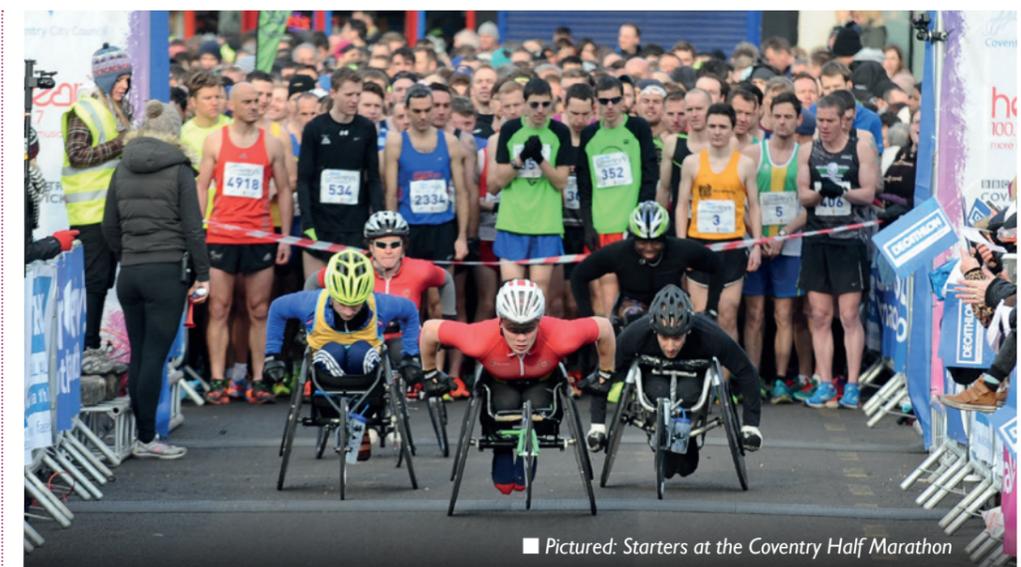
All set for a Festival of Running, jogging and getting active

Coventry Half Marathon is opening entries and is now part of an expanded Festival of Running.

The Festival will be held over two days and introduces a 5k alongside the Half Marathon and Children's Mile.

On **Saturday 23 March**, the Children's Mile and Toddler Dash will take place around the War Memorial Park, before 4,000 runners take to the streets on **Sunday 24 March** in both the Coventry Half Marathon and the inaugural Go Run 5k.

The Festival has partnered with four local charities, Zoe's Place, Myton Hospice, Penny Appeal,



■ Pictured: Starters at the Coventry Half Marathon

and University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, all of whom will offer charity places for the event, and is supported by Coventry Runner and Medwell Hyde.

The expanded event coincides with Coventry's term as an ACES European City of Sport and the city's Year of Wellbeing.

Event organiser Millie McCaughrean from Coventry

University Students' Union, said: **"Whether you're an absolute beginner taking part in your first 5k or a more experienced runner taking on the Half Marathon, everyone is welcome."**

Councillor Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Events at Coventry City Council, said:

"The events will encourage more people and communities to get active and be healthy. I'm sure it will be a great weekend."

Entries for the Half Marathon and for the 5k are now open.

For details visit www.enjoycoventry.com/festivalofrunning



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Call **024 7683 3328** or email guildhall@coventry.gov.uk
www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk

A minimum number of 50 applies for exclusive use of the Great Hall and 30 for The Undercroft bookings

Bookings available from
Monday 3 December - Thursday 20 December
2018



Sleigh ride backing

Coventry has voted to keep the city's vintage festive sleigh ride scenery just as it has been for almost 60 years.

The ride, which was previously a treat for children at The Co-Op on Corporation Street, is now a festive fixture at Coventry Transport Museum.

Ahead of this year's return, residents were asked whether running repairs should be carried out on the existing scenery or whether to update it completely with a brand new scene.

The vote was tight but sticking to the original scene won after a seven-day poll.

The sleigh will return on Saturday 24 November.

People can simply join the queue, and pay at the ticket booth.

The Sleigh Ride experience will cost **£6 per child** with a present, **£1.50 per adult with children** (max of 3 per child) and **£5 for an adult ticket.**



Picture perfect landscapes

One of the greatest Post-Impressionist masterpieces is on display in Coventry this autumn.

Paul Cézanne's *Montagne Sainte-Victoire with Large Pine* is kindly being loaned to the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum by The Courtauld Gallery until January.

Cézanne was a French artist, credited with laying the foundations for the transition from 19th Century art to the 20th Century and was a major influence on the likes of Picasso and Matisse.

Montagne Sainte-Victoire with Large Pine is one of his most celebrated paintings and is part of a collection of work that he produced of the mountain in southern France.

The painting will be complemented in this new exhibition by some of the Herbert's finest landscape works including *Ebbw Vale* by LS Lowry.

Founder of The Courtauld Gallery, Samuel Courtauld, established textile businesses across the UK in regions including Coventry, Preston, and Belfast – and this connection has granted the loan of the painting for the city to enjoy.

Admission is FREE.

warwick arts centre

HAVE A WILDE-LY. ENTERTAINING CHRISTMAS!

TALL STORIES PRESENT

Wilde Creatures

Based on the fairy tales of Oscar Wilde

Wed 28 Nov - Sun 30 Dec
Age 5+



TALL STORIES PRESENT

The Canterville Ghost

Oscar Wilde's spirited spectacular

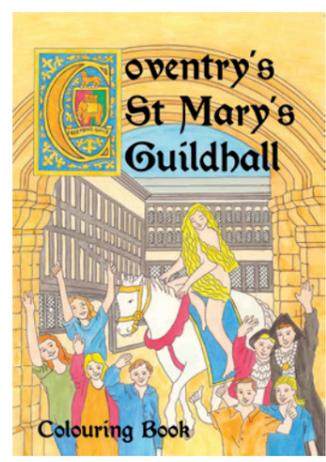
Tue 18 - Sun 23 Dec & Thu 27 - Sun 30 Dec
Age 12+



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warwickartscentre.co.uk
Warwick Arts Centre, The University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

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Guildhall brought to life

The City of Coventry Freeman's Guild, with the support of the Lord Mayor's Office, Coventry University and local businesses has launched Coventry's second medieval colouring book.

The book, called 'Coventry's St Mary's Guildhall', highlights life and events over the centuries and celebrates the Guildhall's rich history and heritage.

Since the launch, over 500 copies of the book have been sold.

The book, a follow-up to 'Coventry's Medieval Story', was the vision of Peter Wilford, Past Master of the Guild, as the Guildhall is the spiritual and physical home of the Freeman's Guild.

The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor John Blundell, said: "This wonderful book honours one of our city's greatest historic buildings. It's fantastic."

The A4 colouring book, richly illustrated by Cathy Renken covers the fascinating history of the Guildhall, which has graced the city since the 14th century.

Part of the proceeds from the book will go to local Coventry charities.

Peter, said: "There is so much to explore and the beautiful illustrations and forgotten facts in this book really help to bring the history of Coventry's treasure to life."

The book is available from The Herbert Museum, Coventry Transport Museum, Priory Visitor Centre plus various heritage sites and is £5.



A festival for all ages

Godiva Festival celebrated its 20th anniversary in style, with thousands of people entering the festival site across the weekend to enjoy the activities.

The festival caters for all ages with a host of attractions.

There was also a moving performance from The Neville Staple Band. Neville and Christine spoke passionately about the importance of communities coming together following the tragic family bereavement they suffered over the weekend.

Around 115,000 visited the War Memorial Park during the three day event.

Keep an eye out for next year's dates on www.godivafestival.com

Parks are all set for winter

Some of the activities you can enjoy in and around Coventry

COOMBE COUNTRY PARK activities:

Unless otherwise stated, the meeting point for all events is 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. All bookings are taken online at www.coventry.gov.uk/coombeevents. Please note that car parking charges apply. All children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Coombe is looking for Friends! We are setting up the first ever 'Friends of Coombe Country Park' group. It could lead to helping manage the site in a practical workshop, volunteering in the information centre, or helping devise future events and activities. Please email: coombe.countrypark@coventry.gov.uk if you are interested.



WAR MEMORIAL PARK activities:

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

Tot Waddles

every Friday except 21 and 28 December
10.30am-12 noon
£3.80 per child.

Come and meet the Education Team for some fun in the park. Listen to a story and have some outdoor fun before coming inside for some arts and crafts. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Suitable for two to four-year-olds. (Younger siblings can accompany brothers and sisters for free but be aware that activities are aimed at two years and above.) All children must be accompanied by an adult.

PARK RANGERS' activities:

Every third Wednesday in the calendar month. Except for the month of December.
10.30am – 3pm.
FREE, Various locations

Good fresh air and healthy exercise! Join the Park Service Rangers on the third Wednesday of every month and help look after and develop Coventry's green spaces. Bring your own lunch if staying all day. Come once, come every time or just come when it suits you. All volunteers must register in advance.

For further information contact **Simon** tel: **07831 582854**. Email: simon.holloway@coventry.gov.uk
Suitable for adults and accompanied teenagers.

DECEMBER

1 – 22 | Nutcracker Trail

COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10am – 3pm
£2 per trail sheet.
Booking not essential

Pick up a trail leaflet to help you find the nutcrackers hidden in the park. Each nutcracker will give you a clue on how to open Santa's safe and collect your prize. Suitable for families. Please leave at least 1 hr to do the trail. The Information Centre closes at 4pm.

1 | Wreath Making Workshop

COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
9.30am – 11.30am or 1pm – 3pm,
£17.50 per person.
Booking essential

Create your own handmade Christmas wreath using natural materials. This is a perfect activity for catching up with friends and family over the festive period. Suitable for 15 years and over.

2 | Jingle all the way!

COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10.30am – 11.30am or 1pm – 2pm,
£5 per child. Booking essential

Bring your little elves to have some festive fun and create some Christmas decorations for your home. Please note, this activity will include edible decorations. Suitable for vegetarians. Please contact us for advice on food allergies related to the activity. Suitable for three years and older.

8 & 9, 15 & 16, 21 & 22 | Santa's Grotto

COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10am – 2.45pm

£8.50 per child, under ones go FREE if accompanied by a paying sibling. Booking essential.

The event includes a visit to Santa, crafts to take home and a small gift. It's that time of year again when Santa and his elves set up a winter wonderland grotto at Coombe. You won't be waiting in a long queue to see Santa as you will be given a session time and children will first enter the workshop with the elves and make their own Christmas crafts to take home until they are taken to meet Father Christmas. Suitable for families.

JANUARY

26 | RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
10am – 12noon
FREE, no booking required

Longford Park, meet near the play area. The Rangers will be supporting the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, we are looking to attract members of the public to help record the bird species in the parks and your own gardens as part of a national bird survey. Suitable for all/families (under eights must be accompanied by an adult.)

27 | RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
10am – 12noon
FREE.
No booking required

Quinton Pool, meet near the play area. The Rangers will be supporting the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, we are looking to attract members of the public to help record the bird species in the parks and your own gardens as part of a national bird survey. Suitable for all/families (under eights must be accompanied by an adult.)

FEBRUARY

19 | Brilliant Birds Breakfast Bonanza

COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10.30am – 11.30am
£4 per child
Booking essential

Come and join the Education Team and their feathered friends to make some fun and unique bird feeders for your garden, all made from natural and edible materials. This activity may take place outside. Bird food may contain nuts. Suitable for three years and older.

19 | Creepy Crawly Hotels

COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
1.30pm – 2.30pm
£4 per child.
Booking essential

Come and join the Education Team to give our creepy crawly friends a helping hand by making your very own Insect Hotel, using natural materials, to take home with you. Suitable for three years and older.

19 | Fresh air and Fun

Bird and bat box making, bird feeders and games

RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE
No booking required

Longford Park, meet near play area. Join in the outdoor fun with the Rangers, including games and craft activities. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised and all over eights must have a completed parental permission slip (available from the Rangers on the day). Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event. Suitable for families with children 12 years and over.

20 | Coombe's Crazy Slime Factory

COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10.30am – 11.30am or
1.30pm – 12.30pm
£4 per child.
Booking essential

Come and join the Education Team to have some slippery fun, making your own slime that you can take home with you. Suitable for three years and older.

20 | Fresh air and Fun

Bird and bat box making, bird feeders and games

RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE.
No booking required

Allesley Park, meet near play area. Join in the outdoor fun with the Rangers, including games and craft activities. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised and all over eights must have a completed parental permission slip (available from the Rangers on the day). Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

21 | Magical Fairy Gardens

WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1.30pm – 3pm
£3.80.

Booking not essential
Come along and create your very own miniature fairy garden. What will your fairy friends like in yours? Ponds, toadstools, trees, flowers maybe? And don't forget a magical door too! Suitable for children three years and over.

21 | Fresh air and Fun

Bird and bat box making, bird feeders and games

RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE, no booking required

Caludon Park, join in the outdoor fun with the Rangers, including games and craft activities. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised and all over eights must have a completed parental permission slip (available from the Rangers on the day). Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

22 | This Little Piggy

WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1.30pm – 3pm
£3.80, booking not essential

Oink oink! Come and paint a piggy bank so you can start saving those pennies! Then have a go at making some other piggy arts and crafts. Suitable for children three years and over.

Storytime fun

Central Library will be holding Code and Go storytimes from 2 – 3pm on Sunday 25 November, and Sunday 16 December. Children 4 – 7 years old can listen to a story while learning the basics of coding by playing with a Code-a-pillar.

For 9 – 13 year olds there are **Coder Dojos**. Volunteer run sessions give attendees the chance to learn basic coding skills to build websites and fly drones. Sessions will be taking place between 9.30am and 11.30am on Saturday 17 November, Saturday 1 December, and Saturday 15 December.

Lego Labs also take place at Central Library.

For details visit www.coventry.gov.uk/libraries

Finger pricking good

This Christmas, the Belgrade Theatre is inviting people of all ages to join **Prince Valiant and his friends Nanny McWheeze and Muddles the Jester on their quest to rescue the sleepy Princess Belle as they retell the timeless tale of Sleeping Beauty.**



When the Princess pricks her finger on an enchanted spinning wheel, she's cursed by the wicked Fairy Carabosse to sleep for 100 years – unless she's kissed by her one true love. Will the trusty trio be triumphant in their mission, or is the princess doomed to a century of snoozing?

Find out in another enchanting pantomime written and directed by local legend Iain Lauchlan, showing from 21 November until 5 January. Book your tickets now – it would be a nightmare to miss it! Details at www.belgrade.co.uk

Arts Centre EVENTS

Warwick Arts Centre has a lot to offer in the run up to the festive season.

From **28 November to 30 December**, Oscar Wilde's classic fairytales are brought to life in Tall Stories' magical new show **'Wilde Creatures'**. Direct from London's West End, characters such as the pompous mayor, the petulant princess and the love-sick student spring to life in a show for anyone aged from five to 105.

From **18-23 and 27-30 December**, another Oscar Wilde favourite, the **Canterville Ghost**, will be bringing chills and laughs to the stage. This is a different kind of festive show that combines theatre, music, magic and comedy in a delicious tribute to Victorian music hall, and offers a cheeky and charming alternative to pantomime.



And for some more modern laughs, **Dara O'Briain** arrives from **29 November to 1 December**. The host of the hugely successful *Mock The Week*, *Star Gazing Live*, *RobotWars* and *Go8Bit* will be performing his new show **the Voice of Reason**.

Catch one of the most charismatic, intelligent, fast-talking and downright funny live performers working today in this brand new show for 2018.

For a full line up of events visit warwickartscentre.co.uk or call the Box Office on **024 7652 4524**.

WE ARE COVENTRY EUROPEAN CITY OF SPORT 2019

www.coventry.gov.uk/cityofsport2019

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 10.30-12noon, Good Honest Food Company, Gardenia Drive, Allesley Village.

I BINLEY AND WILLENHALL

Cllr Christine Thomas
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Cllr Ram P Lakha OBE
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Cllr John Mutton
Tel: 024 7683 1030 or e-mail
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For an appointment or advice please contact me.

I CHEYLESMORE

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facebook Rois4Cheylesmore

Cllr Richard Brown
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I EARLSDON

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For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Allan Andrews
Tel: 024 7683 1276 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
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tariq.khan@coventry.gov.uk
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Cllr Balvinder Kaur
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I HENLEY

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Cllr Kevin Maton
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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 7705 5228 or
024 7683 1039 or e-mail
rachel.lancaster@coventry.gov.uk
Every Thursday 10-11am at Holbrooks Community Centre, John Shelton Drive CV6 4PE.

Cllr Ann Lucas OBE
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

I LONGFORD

Cllr Lindsley Harvard
Tel: 024 7667 5717 or e-mail
lindsley.harvard@coventry.gov.uk
First Saturday of every month 11am-12noon at the Bird In Hand, Aldermans Green Road. 12noon 1pm Bell Green Community Centre, Old Church Road. 1-2pm Bell Green Working Men's Club, Roseberry Avenue.



Cllr Linda Bigham
Deputy Lord Mayor
Tel: 024 7683 3048 or e-mail
linda.bigham@coventry.gov.uk
Please book for an appointment. First Friday of month 5.30-6.30pm at Scout Headquarters, Aldermans Green Rd and 7-8pm at St Thomas' Parish Church Hall, Longford Rd. Last Friday of month 6-7pm St Thomas' Parish Church Hall, Longford Rd.



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.

I LOWER STOKE

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'm at the Empress Buildings, Binley Road on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 10am. Also I will be "Down your Way" soon. Follow me on twitter @CllrJMcNicholas

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

I RADFORD

Cllrs Mutton, Hetherton and Skipper hold surgeries on 2nd Mon of the month, 3.30pm to 4.30pm Jubilee Crescent Community Centre, and 2nd Friday, 10-11am at St Francis of Assisi Church.

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 Patricia Hetherton
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patricia.hetherton@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

Cllr Tony Skipper
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tony.skipper@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

I SHERBOURNE

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
Last Friday of month 10-11.30am, Earlsdon Retirement Village cafe.



Cllr Damian Gannon
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
damian.gannon@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

I 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-1pm, 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 12noon-12.30pm at Coventry Central Library, Smithford Way.

Cllr Naeem Akhtar
Tel: 07747 003141 or e-mail
naeem.akhtar@coventry.gov.uk
Surgeries first Tuesday of month, 5-5.30pm at Hillfields Youth Centre, Yardley St. For an appointment or home visit please contact me.

I UPPER STOKE

Cllr Sucha Bains
Tel: 024 7645 9484 or e-mail
sucha.bains@coventry.gov.uk

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.

I WAINBODY

Cllr John Blundell
Lord Mayor
Tel: 024 7683 3048 (weekdays)
or 024 7641 9794 (evenings/
weekends) or e-mail
john.blundell@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

Cllr Gary Crookes
Tel: 024 7683 1039 (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

I 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
For a one to one meeting please contact me.

I WHOBERLEY

Cllrs Akhtar and Innes hold regular surgeries every fourth Saturday (except Dec, July and August) from 12noon 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 7683 1030 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-12noon at St Mary Magdalen Centre, Sir Thomas White Rd. For an appointment please contact me.

I WOODLANDS

Cllr Peter Male
Tel: 07812 741220 or
024 7683 1039 or e-mail
peter.male@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Gary Ridley
Tel: 024 7683 1276 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.

I 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
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Cllr Hazel Sweet
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For an appointment please contact me.

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Cllr George Duggins, Leader, Policy and Leadership
Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader, Policing and Equalities (Deputy, Cllr Pervez Akhtar)
Cllr John Mutton, Strategic Finance and Resources
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