

# citivision

issue 60 | winter | 2017

## Race is on for the City of Culture bid



### INSIDE

- Upper Precinct escalator to go
- More bus lanes suspended
- Honour for Victoria Cross hero

### Lighting up the city

### for Christmas

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



# We are CHRISTMAS

Shop Taste Win  
**COVENTRY**



LIGHT SWITCH ON WITH  
**ALESHA DIXON**  
22 NOVEMBER  
BROADGATE



**CINDERELLA**  
22 NOVEMBER TO  
13 JANUARY  
BELGRADE THEATRE

**WIN**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
WITH OUR HUGE  
**£4000**  
COMPETITION\*



**VINTAGE SLEIGH RIDE**  
24 NOVEMBER TO  
23 DECEMBER  
COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM



**COVENTRY'S FESTIVE WEEKENDS**  
FEEL THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IN BROADGATE  
24-26 NOVEMBER  
15-17 DECEMBER

[www.coventrycitycentre.co.uk](http://www.coventrycitycentre.co.uk)



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

## Raising the city's cultural profile

The final bid is in and we now eagerly wait to see whether Coventry is successful in becoming the UK City of Culture for 2021.

Since we first announced our intention to go for the title it seems that our city has come to life like never before, with so many events involving thousands of people. That is because of the bid – just think of the effect if we win.

We have a truly amazing city that deserves its place on the national stage – and our residents deserve the benefits and opportunities a successful bid would bring for them and their children. That is why we are backing the bid.

It would create a lasting legacy by bringing a wealth of social, cultural and economic possibilities. We should find out if we are successful in December so fingers crossed!

Regardless of the outcome, our city is already changing. New restaurants are adding to our nightlife; a water park is being built; and we have proposals to remove the large escalator in the Upper Precinct – which will create a much better walkway between the fountain and Cathedral Lanes and something I know many residents want to see.

Elsewhere, I'm pleased to see the extension of our bus lane suspension trial. We are continuing to monitor how this is working but initial signs are that traffic is moving effectively without affecting bus journey times. In this issue of *Citivism* there are also lots of great examples of the community making a difference for local people – something else worth celebrating.

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

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Cover story: City of Culture Bid team in London.



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## contact us

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

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All details are correct at time of going to print (23 October 2017).

# Help for people struggling to pay bills

**The Council has signed up to a new protocol with Citizens Advice Coventry to promote best practice for dealing with people who get into difficulties paying their Council Tax.**

The protocol has been created to bring together the local authority, enforcement agencies and advice agencies to help people pay their Council Tax bills while accessing debt advice when needed.

Signing the document means that the Council will continue improving the information supplied to Council Tax payers about the billing process and how

to get support and debt advice.

Ed Hodson, Citizens Advice Coventry, said: "Council Tax arrears is a significant issue. For a number of years now the Council has worked with us to help mitigate the effects of austerity and signing this protocol is another positive step in this work."

Councillor John Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, added: "We have a responsibility to ensure we maximise collection rates but at the same time we need to work with people to support them so that they can pay their bills without getting into greater financial difficulties."



■ Cllr John Mutton, signs the protocol on behalf of the Council, alongside Ed Hodson.

## Refugees award

Coventry's Lord Mayor Cllr Tony Skipper presented certificates to 33 people for their efforts to rebuild their lives since arriving in the city.

The presentation was co-hosted by the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre (CRMC).

Sisters Dina and Aseel El Haj arrived in the city last year after escaping the civil war in Sudan. They were awarded certificates for their efforts in volunteering – Aseel at CRMC and Dina at the Myton Hospice charity shop.

They both hope to become nurses in the future.

## Cities celebrate friendship



Coventry and its twin city of Kiel have celebrated 70 years of friendship.

The two cities were united by the horrors of the Second World War and a desire to spread a message of peace.

To mark the anniversary, a

civic and religious delegation from Coventry travelled to Kiel, and attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the graves of British and German soldiers.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the official twinning of the two cities.

## Charter to tackle food poverty

A multi-agency group created to fight food poverty in Coventry, is set to launch a Food Charter showing how individuals, families and organisations can make their contributions to making Coventry a sustainable food city.

The initiative – called Feeding Coventry – will form the centrepiece of Food Poverty Awareness Week running in November.

Organisers are offering people the opportunity to learn more about food poverty in Coventry and what is being done to combat it.

The Food Charter encourages individuals, families and re-examining how they value food. The overall objective of this project is to end food poverty by 2020.

Councillor Faye Abbott, Chair of Feeding Coventry, said: "We are urging as many individuals, families and organisations to read our Charter, sign up and do what they can to eliminate food poverty in Coventry."

For details visit [www.coventrypartnership.com/feeding-coventry/](http://www.coventrypartnership.com/feeding-coventry/); or follow them on Twitter @FeedingCoventry

# Benefit changes advice

Agencies in Coventry have produced a video to help raise awareness of Universal Credit. The new benefit payment will be introduced gradually in Coventry from April 2018.

Universal Credit is being introduced across the country and provides support to people who are either on a low income or out of work.

New claimants will receive one monthly payment, in arrears, replacing one or more of six means-tested benefits.

Alan Markey, from Coventry Independent Advice Services, said: "As a group of agencies we are determined to ensure that people understand the new Universal Credit system and to overcome challenges currently being experienced in other areas of the country."

Coventry Citizens Advice, Coventry City Council, Coventry Law Centre, Whitefriars Housing and Coventry Independent Advice Service are some of the organisations that can provide

advice and support as Universal Credit is introduced in the city.

Cllr John Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, added: "It's important that people have the right advice. There have been delays in Universal Credit payments and we need to prevent tenants falling into rent arrears."

To see the video and find out more information please visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/universalcredit](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/universalcredit)

# Escalators to go



■ Artists' impression of what the Upper Precinct could look like.

**The large escalators in the Upper Precinct, in the city centre are likely to be removed as part of improvement work.**

Proposals for the area will include alterations to the shopfronts, the walkways, and the public realm. A new entrance will be created into West Orchards Shopping Centre.

J.P. Morgan and Shearer Property Group, who are the owners of Upper Precinct will be consulting on the plans for the shopping area.

Stewart Underwood, Director of Shearer Property Group, said: "With the recent closure of BHS

it is important that we invest now to create a shopping environment that will help existing and new shops to thrive."

Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration said: "I'm pleased that there is a plan to remove the escalators – there is no love for them or the ramp. It blocks the views of the Cathedral spire. People have been telling us for years that they would like them removed.

He added: "Hopefully, if the changes are approved by planning, it will complement the bigger regeneration plan for City Centre South."

## Uber taxis must play by the rules

Coventry MP Jim Cunningham is backing calls to restrict the number of Uber taxis operating in Coventry – that are not licensed by Coventry City Council.

Cllr Jane Innes and MP Jim Cunningham met with members from Wolverhampton City Council, which has admitted to having 241 licensed taxi drivers with Coventry addresses.

Jim Cunningham is lobbying the government to change the law on taxis.

Cllr Innes said: "Even though Uber taxis are not licensed in Coventry, their vehicles are operating in Coventry, many with licenses on their vehicles from Wolverhampton City Council.

"We place tight rules and regulations on our taxi drivers. In Wolverhampton most of the application process takes place online. It is possible for a new taxi driver to be taking fares just two weeks after first accessing the website."

Cllr Innes says that because passengers use a phone app to book an Uber taxi it means drivers can operate outside Coventry City Council rules.

Wolverhampton Council has agreed to take steps to restrict the number of their taxis appearing in the city.

"They will be asking Coventry-based applicants to consider choosing to license in Coventry instead," added Cllr Innes.

## Free WiFi coming to city centre

Free public WiFi is coming to Coventry city centre.

The wireless service from IntechologyWiFi will offer better digital connections for people using the WiFi.

Users will be able to enjoy unlimited free browsing without running up large bills for data usage.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration at Coventry City

Council, said: "Free public WiFi is good for local people and businesses and I am sure it will be well used."

In addition to the better WiFi system residents and visitors will have access to a new mobile app, called Citi-Wise. Through this people will be able to find restaurants and other attractions.

The free-to-use service is being rolled out in 2018. There is no charge to the taxpayer.

# Water park taking shape

Construction is now well underway on the new city centre water park.

The new water park will include a range of slides, lazy river, wave pool, day spa, 25metre swimming pool, 120 station gym, dance studio and squash courts.

Councillor Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Health and Sport, said: "I'm so pleased to see the steelwork go up for the water park. It will be the first city centre water park in the country."

The building will take approximately 18 months to construct and once open about 20 million litres of water will be treated every day with around two million litres of water flowing down the rides every hour.

Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said: "The waterpark is just one part of our overall plans for revitalising and reinventing the city centre.



"I look forward to when it is finished. When it inspires the sort of memories the old Cov Baths did then we will know it is a success."

■ Cllr Jim O'Boyle (left) and Councillor Kamran Caan (right) on site at the water park.



## Service is 'Haven sent'

Coventry Haven Women's Aid has been awarded the Women's Aid National Quality Mark, demonstrating that it provides a high quality service to women and children experiencing domestic violence in Coventry.

Elaine Yates, Coventry Haven CEO, said "We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded the Quality Mark."

Coventry Haven was highlighted for the professionalism and experience of staff and volunteers.

Polly Neate, from Women's Aid Federation England, said: "The hard work of Coventry Haven is making that difference."

# Green grant tackles carbon emissions

A £5 million investment by an expanding recycling and waste management company in Warwickshire will lead to massive reductions in carbon emissions.

Fortress Recycling and Resource Management on the Heathcote Industrial Estate in Warwick is the first company to receive a £100,000 grant from the Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Programme following introductions by the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP Growth Hub.

The business, which is run by brothers David, Robert and Andrew Pass, has invested in a £5 million materials processing facility which means paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and aluminium cans can be

sorted and recycled.

Twenty new jobs have been created.

Fortress Recycling and Resource Management applied for a grant from the Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Programme which is part financed by the European Regional Development Fund and is being delivered by Coventry City Council, Coventry University and Coventry University Enterprises Ltd.

The programme is open to businesses with less than 250 employees based in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub – based at Cheylesmore House was formed by the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership. For further information, email [contact@cwgrowthhub.co.uk](mailto:contact@cwgrowthhub.co.uk) or telephone 0300 060 3747.

■ (L-R) Sarah Watson (Green Business Programme), Cllr Noel Butler (Warwick District Council), David Pass (Fortress Recycling and Resource Management) and Jaymie Thakordas (CWLEP Growth Hub).

## Spreading the peace message

Coventry's annual Peace Festival is underway, and the city has been spreading a message of peace and reconciliation for many years.

The festival helps to shine a light on the groups and individuals who lead that work. Over 50 events

involving all areas of society take part including choirs, youth groups, community projects, orchestras, radio stations, and all have one aim in promoting and bringing peace to people's lives whether directly or indirectly.

## University's reputation rises

Coventry University has risen to 44th spot overall in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018 maintaining its top 50 position for the fifth consecutive year.

The university shines in the guide's student experience and teaching quality measures too ranking second and third respectively in the West Midlands.

Coventry also performs very

well in the graduate prospects category – which indicates the percentage of graduates in professional jobs or graduate-level study – coming in the top two in the region.

It is also the top-placed modern university in both the Guardian Good University Guide – in which it ranks 12th overall – and the Complete University Guide.



■ Coventry University's Engineering and Computing Building.

## Bus lane suspension



■ Cllr Duggins and Cllr Innes on Foleshill Road where a bus lane will be suspended.

**Four more bus lanes in the city are set to be suspended and one will be permanently removed.**

The proposal comes after seven bus lanes were suspended in January this year. The next phase covers:

- Kirby Corner Road
- Herald Avenue
- Radford Road
- Butts Road

The bus lane on Foleshill Road (see photo above) will be permanently suspended between Junction 1 of the Ring Road and Broad Street and Lockhurst Lane.

There has been strong support for the bus lane removal.

Cllr George Duggins, Council Leader, said: "I'm delighted with the way phase 1 has gone. The early results are very encouraging and I'd like to thank the bus companies for working with us. As a bus user myself, I know how important

public transport is – but this project has also been about keeping all transport moving in the city – not just buses."

Phase 1 covered the following bus lanes:

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

The phase 1 trial will be extended for a further six months

Drivers will know which suspended bus lanes they can use when they see the new signs which have been changed to inform and encourage motorists to use the newly available lanes.

The yellow and black signs will say 'Bus lane suspended. Use both lanes'.

## Light rail service

Plans for a very light rail service in Coventry moved a step closer with researchers from WMG, at the University of Warwick, unveiling early vehicle concept designs to representatives from Coventry City Council.

The project, funded by the Government's Local Growth Fund through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership and West Midlands

The small rail vehicles will have the capability to operate autonomously without a driver. The vehicles will be battery operated using rapid charging solutions, and therefore, will not require overhead cables.

Professor Lord Bhattacharyya, Chairman of WMG, commented: "I am delighted that Coventry is adopting this cutting-edge very



Combined Authority Devolution Deal (which is subject to approval of the business case), is set to better connect the city. This will use a state-of-the-art rail system which will be cheaper, quieter and more environmentally friendly than anything currently available.

The very light rail project seeks to develop a supply chain for the manufacturing of lightweight rail vehicles and tracks – enabling local authorities to install new community rail services and reduce congestion more easily.

light rail technology. It will set a new trend for urban public transport."

It is planned that the first demonstrator vehicle will be assembled by spring 2019.

Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and CWLEP board director, said, "This kind of innovation is what WMG, Warwick University and in fact Coventry do best and it's really good to think that our city is at the very front of new advances in transport."

## Speed limit reminder

Road users are being reminded about the importance of speed limits on residential roads.

Two new mobile Vehicle Activated Signs have recently been installed in Bredon Avenue. Concerns have been raised about traffic speed in the area.

The signs are interactive and display the speed of a vehicle along with a varying message when triggered.

They are acting as a reminder to passing traffic of the speed limit in that area.

Similar signs will also appear on

Longfellow Road.

The Vehicle Activated Signs are mobile. Once traffic speed has eased in this area, the signs will be moved elsewhere in the city.

Cllr Jayne Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services said: "In Coventry there's a strong link between road accidents resulting in serious injuries, and excess speeds.

"Cutting excess speeds, and the new peripatetic VAS signs are key to improving road safety.

"I'm really hopeful that the signs will help reduce traffic speeds."



■ Cllr Innes next to one of the new signs in Bredon Avenue.

# 100 year memorial for war hero

The only Coventry born recipient of the Victoria Cross has been given a second permanent memorial in the War Memorial Park.

Corporal Arthur Hutt received the Victoria Cross for bravery during the First World War.

**“Very proud to be related to one of Coventry’s heroes and for what he did for King and country.”**

One hundred years on, his family and Council representatives gathered to see a new engraved paving stone put in place in front of the original memorial.

The new engraved paving stone was unveiled by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor John Blundell.

Family member Laurence Hutt



said: “Very proud to be related to one of Coventry’s heroes and for what he did for King and country.”

It was also an opportunity to celebrate other soldiers who

fought, and fell in battle.

The new commemorative paving stone is now available for viewing in The War Memorial Park.

■ Family members of Corporal Arthur Hutt and Council representatives at the memorial in the War Memorial Park.

## City thanks for green-fingered Terry



Terry Greville, who has been nurturing the Holyhead Road allotments for the past 50 years, has been thanked for his efforts.

Terry first came to Coventry from his native Ireland in 1960 and after a few years, he took an allotment at the Holyhead Road site.

He has been the key holder and has also helped set up a community garden on the site.

Council Leader George Duggins, Councillor Seamus Walsh and some of his friends from the site took time out to congratulate him on his work. (pictured above) Terry said: “The Council has been very good

to us. It’s great that it helps with allotments.

“Everyone helps each other and I’ve made some very good friends over the years.”

Cllr Walsh, a Sherbourne Ward Councillor who used to have an allotment on the site, said: “Terry is a wonderful friend to everyone who has an allotment here – he’s always ready to help.”

To rent an allotment costs £15 to £35 a year, depending on location and facilities.

To join the waiting list for a vacant plot please contact Mrs Smith: 024 7627 4553

For details visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/allotments](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/allotments)

## Woods improvements



■ Jaguar Land Rover employees volunteering at Whitley Common.

A team of 31 Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) employees recently donated 175 hours of their time to transform Whitley Common Woods.

The volunteers are all based in Coventry - a third of the volunteers are local residents.

Stewart Bailey, a process manager from the Trading Division at JLR in Coventry, explained: “After reading an article in the local press, I contacted the Council as our large team could help the community so close to our HQ.

“The project was hard work but we’re all really pleased with the

outcome. We’ve left a lasting legacy where people can enjoy nature walks and a safe bridge for school children and locals linking Whitley Common and Cheylesmore.”

During the bridge build and stream clearance work, the team removed 35 bags of rubbish from the stream and pathways and items such as a car battery, a motorcycle fuel tank, two tyres, two metal chairs and a shopping trolley.

The volunteers were supported by members of the Council’s parks team who joined them during the project.



# Albany Theatre set to expand

Renovation work is underway at one of Coventry's oldest theatres.

The Albany Theatre on Butts Road has signed a 25-year lease with the option of a further 25 years to occupy its existing building.

As part of the agreement the theatre will take on 1,000 square metres of additional adjoining space.

The new space has been acquired to promote wellbeing through the arts in partnership with other organisations. A performance studio theatre and dance facilities, flexible spaces for community use, and a bar and café will form the basis of plans.

The Albany Theatre, which is run by registered charity The Albany Theatre Trust, was able to sign the new lease after Coventry-based solicitors, Band Hatton Button, negotiated a deal that will see Coventry City Council act as a guarantor for the charity for the first 25 years.

David Meredith, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Albany Theatre Trust, said he was delighted with the new



agreement.

He said: "Without taking on the new space we could not have secured a lease to save the theatre, and we could not have done it without the support of Coventry City Council."

Nick Button, Head of Commercial Property at Band Hatton Button said the news was fitting as the city bids to become UK City of Culture in 2021.

Cllr John Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, at the Council said: "The Albany

Theatre is a wonderful success story. By acting as guarantor, we can help the theatre to a more secure future and allow it to continue its valuable work in the local community."

■ From left, Nick Button (Band Hatton Button); Brian Harrabin (Harrabin Construction); Councillor John Mutton; Andrew Roberts (Robothams Architects); Laurence Moore (Prime Accountancy Group); Claudette Bryanston (Albany Theatre).

## Register Office name change offer

People can now change their own name at the Coventry Register Office (also known as Cheylesmore Manor).

A deed is now in place and is available by appointment only. This means that new names can be officially changed as part of a registration process.

There are various terms and conditions that should be taken into consideration when applying for a deed such as age, employer's consent and nationality.

Claire Healey, ceremony co-ordinator, said: "People choose to change their identity for all sorts of reasons, they dislike their current name, or sometimes changing their surname following a divorce."

Fees vary, depending on the circumstance or reason for the changing of name, with a maximum fee of £50.

Cheylesmore Manor also has a range of stunning ceremony rooms such as The Manor Room, The Library Room and The Black Prince Room. The Black Prince Room is the largest of the ceremony suites, and can accommodate up to 60 people. A ceremony can include your own choice of vows, readings and music.

Each room still retains its original features. Visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/ceremonies](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ceremonies) for details.

# Theatre marks 10 year anniversary

The Belgrade Theatre has hosted an anniversary party to celebrate 10 years of its B2 auditorium.

Artistic Director Hamish Glen, Associate Director Justine Themen, and Coventry's Lord Mayor, Tony Skipper (pictured) helped to mark the event.

B2 opened in September 2007. Seating between 200 – 300 people, the B2 auditorium has allowed the theatre to stage innovative work, helping to reinforce the theatre's reputation.

The Belgrade Youth Company also present regular high-quality work in B2.

Hamish Glen said: "We're

enormously proud of what we have produced in B2 over the last 10 years. It's helped to establish the Belgrade as a top regional producing theatre."

B2 will host the Belgrade's first ever dementia-friendly performance of Finding Joy on Saturday 18 November at 1.30pm. This funny and heart-warming play by the UK's leading full-mask theatre company Vamos, will be specially adapted to suit audience members living with dementia, and their carers'.

For details visit [www.belgrade.co.uk](http://www.belgrade.co.uk)



## Audience figures up

The Belgrade Theatre audience numbers are at their highest ever with 176,180 tickets sold in the last financial year 2016/17.

Out of the total number of tickets sold, 44% went to residents of priority postcode areas and 40% of tickets were offered at a concessionary price to disabled patrons, children, the unemployed, senior citizens and Passport to Leisure holders.

From 2016-17, the Theatre produced and presented over 500 performances. 2018 will mark the 60th anniversary of the Belgrade.

See back page for latest shows at the theatre.

# Backing for socially conscious businesses

Two brand new community businesses are now up and running thanks to backing from Coventry University's dedicated entrepreneurship support team.

Over the last few months SpringAction, a cleaning company run by Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, and Mum's Kitchen, a catering firm employing stay at home mums, have been getting help from Coventry University Social Enterprise (CUSE), the university's community focused subsidiary.

The companies came to fruition as a result of a public competition that CUSE ran earlier in the year to encourage the development of new socially beneficial business ventures.

Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, has set up a cleaning business employing newly arrived migrants and refugees who have permission to live and work in the UK but who were struggling to find employment.

Nasreen Farid, an interpreter and chairperson of Coventry based charity Helen Women's

Project, also secured support for her plan for a catering business for stay at home mums in the migrant BME community that she supported through the charity.

The two businesses shared a prize fund of £10,000 to help with start-up costs.

SpringAction now has contracts with a number of businesses in the city and employs eight cleaners, with more work and cleaners coming on board. Mum's Kitchen has set up its base in the city centre and 15 women from the Helen Women's Project are doing work for the company.

Coventry University has opened a new Enterprise Hub on Whitefriars Street in the city centre where staff and students who have a business idea, and members of the public who want to develop a social enterprise, can go to for advice and support.

■ (L-R) Jan Malatesta, Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre; Kidisti Garza Habtom, SpringAction employee; and Mariama Njie, Coventry University Social Enterprise.



**Your new waste collection service started in September we collect your green-lidded bin one week, blue and brown-lidded bins the next**



**NEW**



You can use your new food waste caddy to collect all your food waste which can then be emptied into your brown or green-lidded bin.

You don't need to line the caddy – but if you want to you can use newspaper or compostable liners.

Join the **Coventry Recycling Club** and receive **£1 off** liners.  
[www.coventry.gov.uk/recyclingclub](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/recyclingclub)

To check your collection day visit  
[www.coventry.gov.uk/bindays](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/bindays)

# Ambition anniversary celebrates young people's successes

Young people from across Coventry celebrated their successes in getting into rewarding jobs, training and educational opportunities during the first anniversary of the city's Ambition programme.

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

"Together with a wide range of local employers and charities, hundreds of young people have had the chance to get into meaningful employment and training to set them on the right track into careers that work for them."

Ambition supports 16 – 29 year olds from Coventry who are not in education, employment or training on their journey into getting a job.

Over 1,000 young people have



■ Cllr O'Boyle (centre) with young people and employers at the celebration event held at Fargo Village.

taken part in Ambition since its launch last year and over 350 young people have already entered new employment, training and education opportunities.

Ambition has been made possible thanks to support from the Youth Employment Initiative, which is funded through the European Social Fund.

For more information about how to get involved with Ambition, visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/ambition](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ambition) or [www.facebook.com/ambitioncov](http://www.facebook.com/ambitioncov)

## Damilola builds her future

The only woman to join a university's Construction degree course last year hopes to change the face of the industry.

Damilola Ola (pictured), 19, became the only female fresher studying Construction Management at Coventry University after making the choice through Clearing.



**"I'm the only woman on my course but that makes me stand out in a positive way."**

The teenager was also one of 30 students to win the university's Ada Lovelace scholarship, funded by Tata Technologies, which encourages women to pursue science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers.

Damilola, from Northfield, Birmingham, said: "I'm the only woman on my course but that makes me stand out in a positive way."

"Construction management was the only course I had in mind."

"My results were not what I had expected, so I was unsure if I would get a place at a university."

"I had no choice but to call as many universities as I could find that offered the course, and there weren't many. After calling around, Coventry stood out."

Damilola is the first in her family to go to university, and now the only female in her year on Coventry's Construction Management BSc.

## Just the job at The Gym Chef



■ (L-R) Gurpal Virdee, Kelsey Rawlins, Cllr Jim O'Boyle and Jack Reeve.

Two young men have secured permanent jobs with the support of the Council's Job Shop.

Gurpal Virdee, who owns The Gym Chef, a company that develops a range of seasoning products to help support healthy eating and special dietary requirements, has been working with the Job Shop as part of a work and wellbeing programme.

Kelsey Rawlins and Jack Reeve both have autism and with the support of The Gym Chef and Job Shop advisors have now been offered permanent employment. Initially in-work support was provided daily but this has slowly

been withdrawn.

Gurpal, said: "I'd recommend the service offered by the Job Shop. We're expanding our company and it's rewarding to be able to work with these two individuals so they can share the journey with us."

Kelsey and Jack were signed up as part of the Ambition Coventry programme which is a work and wellbeing programme supporting adults aged 16-29 who face low level mental health challenges, to secure employment.

For details visit the Job Shop in Bull Yard or visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/jobshop](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/jobshop)



## Lasting legacy for city

Council Leader, Cllr George Duggins believes that achieving UK City of Culture would mean so much for the city, creating a lasting legacy.

He said that the role brings a wealth of social, cultural and economic possibilities. He added: "It gives us the chance to raise our profile on the national and international stage and build for the future. It is a chance to create something special for the people who live, work and study here.

"We also believe our city has a story that deserves to be told.

"Since we first announced our intention to go for the title it seems that our city has come to life like never before, with so many events involving thousands of people. That is because of the bid – just think of the effect if we win.

**"We also believe our city has a story that deserves to be told."**

"We have a truly amazing city that deserves its place on the national stage – and its residents deserve the benefits and opportunities a successful bid would bring for them and their children.

"That is why we are backing the bid."

■ Laura McMillan with Council Leader Cllr George Duggins.



## The final bid is in!

Coventry's final bid for UK City of Culture 2021 has been submitted to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The initial bid document was submitted in April, and then we found out Coventry had made the shortlist of five in July.

To submit the final bid, the Coventry City of Culture Trust bid team, along with representatives from Positive Youth Foundation, were 'sent to London' in a piece of artwork straight out of the Cartists exhibition at the Coventry Transport Museum.

**"We couldn't be more proud of the city."**

Designed by local artist Patrick Murphy, the London Electric Vehicle Company-donated taxi is wrapped in the 'Coventry Knowledge', a map of the city's many assets.

Laura McMillan, Manager of the Coventry City of Culture Trust, said: "Two years of work have gone into this bid and we couldn't be more proud of the city or more grateful to everyone who has played a part in it."

In December, the Coventry City of Culture bid team will head to Hull to present the final case as to why we should win, before the winner of the UK City of Culture 2021 title is announced!

To show your support for Coventry's bid on social media, go to @Coventry2021 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For more information, log onto [www.coventry2021.co.uk](http://www.coventry2021.co.uk)

■ Laura McMillan (centre) with representatives from Positive Youth Foundation.

## On song for Electric Proms

Twelve of Coventry's finest young emerging performers were given a unique opportunity to perform in Butterworth Hall at Warwick Arts Centre recently alongside a backdrop of a 30-piece orchestra and a 200 strong local youth choir, courtesy of critically acclaimed Armonico Consort. The

highly inspirational event was organised by Positive Youth Foundation (PYF) through its Youth Music funded programme Changing Trax. The project saw the young performers work with former BBC Proms Young Composer of the Year, Toby Young, on their own original pieces ahead of the performance.

## Lord Mayor's Charity gig

The Coventry Empire presents the 'Love Cov Music Show' in aid of the Lord Mayor's Charities. It's set to be an evening of music from the Neville Staples Band, Jerry Dammers, Barbed Wire

plus many more performances. The 'Love Cov Music Show' event takes place 1 December. Keep your eyes peeled on social media for more info on how to book your tickets (see page 21).



## Speaking up for city

A film that captures the experiences of a range of individuals who all talk about the effect Coventry has had on them and their lives is being used as part of Coventry's UK City of Culture bid.

**"I know the massive positive effect winning UK City of Culture would have on their lives."**

The film, sponsored by PET-Xi and produced by Chris Bradley of Willowmann Productions and Mat Beckett of River Rea Films, features rousing and emotional contributions from local people.

Alan Hartley, aged 93, who was in the city on the night of the Blitz, and Sabir Zazai who moved here as a refugee in 1999 and went on to become CEO of the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, are among those featured in the short film.

Fleur Sexton, Managing Director of PET-Xi, said: "I know the massive positive effect winning UK City of Culture would have on their lives."

The film can be seen at [www.coventry2021.co.uk/OurFilm](http://www.coventry2021.co.uk/OurFilm)

■ Fleur Sexton, of PET-Xi, and Michael Mogan, of Coventry City of Culture Trust.



## Moonlight medley

The magnificent Museum of the Moon shone brightly across Coventry as part of the Festival of Imagineers in September, where people were invited to view the unique installation in a variety of settings, from a performance with Balbir Singh at Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre, to a Moonlight Medley under the moon at the Cathedral by Derek Nesbit and Coventry Cathedral's Director of Music Kerry Beaumont.

■ (L-R) Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair of Arts Council England with Laura McMillan and David Burbidge, Chair of the Coventry City of Culture Trust.



## Culture and Tourism Awards celebration

The Coventry and Warwickshire Culture and Tourism Awards organised by Touch FM and Rugby FM and supported by Coventry City of Culture Trust returned for a third year and saw 14 awards handed out to businesses, organisations and individuals who have made

a key contribution to the region.

Winners included Theatre Absolute, Twisted Barrel and Motionhouse amongst others, and special awards were given to the Ricoh Arena and Lee House, organiser of the Coventry Godiva Festival.

## Coventry Business Community Back the Bid

Following the initial announcement of Coventry's intent to bid for UK City of Culture status, the response from the business community has been magnificent, with now

over 100 companies signed up as 2021 club members. Businesses that would like to support the bid should contact Michael Mogan at [michael.mogan@coventry2021.co.uk](mailto:michael.mogan@coventry2021.co.uk)

# Getting active on diabetes



■ Cllr George Duggins (left) and Cllr Kamran Caan join organisers of the diabetes awareness event.

**The impact of Type 2 diabetes can be devastating for many people causing blindness, amputations, and even early death.**

Unlike Type 1 diabetes which is not linked to lifestyle and cannot be prevented, the most important risk factor for

developing Type 2 diabetes is being overweight. Taking simple steps and maintaining a healthy weight through keeping active and eating a healthy diet can make a difference.

People who are South Asian, African-Caribbean, Black African

or over 40 (or over 25 if you are Asian) and anyone with a parent, child, brother or sister who has diabetes are listed as those who could also be at risk.

For more information visit [www.diabetes.org.uk/knowyourrisk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/knowyourrisk)

# Free online parent guide

Coventry Health Visiting Service is giving parents free guides covering 'your pregnancy', 'your baby' and 'your child'.

Parents, grandparents and carers can read the free guides, which have been professionally developed by midwives, health visitors and child psychologists.

It is hoped that by spending time on the modules people will grow in confidence as a parent or carer.

To access these three FREE courses, visit [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk) and register. Then login, select 'Take Course' on the course of your choice and add the relevant discount coupon code below.

- Understanding your pregnancy – Discount code: SHERBOURNE1A
- Understanding your baby – Discount code: SHERBOURNE2P
- Understanding your child – Discount code: SHERBOURNE3C

# Improving access to psychological therapies



■ Members of Coventry's IAPT service.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust has successfully secured investment to deliver an innovative integration programme.

The funding is to design, test and deliver an integrated service in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) for patients with Diabetes and respiratory conditions (COPD and Asthma).

The new integrated service is to benefit people with low level mental health needs such

as mild to moderate depression and anxiety disorders in the context of Diabetes and respiratory conditions (COPD and Asthma).

People with physical long term conditions, such as Diabetes or cardiovascular disease, also often have mental health problems.

Helen Stephenson, head of the IAPT service, said: "This is an excellent opportunity to support our patients in maintaining their physical and mental wellbeing in the community."

Money worries?

You don't have to be the **SUPERHERO** all the time

Take off the mask.  
Be your own superhero.  
Asking for help is a sign of strength.

It's never too soon, or too late, to get help or advice about money.

www.coventry.gov.uk/hero

If you need immediate help, please call:  
**The Samaritans 116 123**  
**Mental Health Matters**  
**0800 616171** from a landline  
**0300 330 5487** from a mobile

# Time to get your flu vaccination

**It's time for residents across Coventry to think flu and get protected by having their flu vaccination.**

It's really important that as many eligible people as possible get their vaccination which is the best way to protect everyone from flu.

Vaccines are the best defence we have against flu and not only protect people who have received the vaccine but also those around them.

GPs, pharmacies and antenatal clinics are offering the vaccination - making it as easy as possible for people to get their vaccination booked.

Coventry City Council, local Clinical Commissioning Groups and hospitals are urging communities to get vaccinated.

Those able to have free vaccinations include people aged



65 and over, pregnant women, children or adults with serious medical conditions and carers.

A nasal vaccination is available for all children aged two and three on 31 August 2017 (born between 1 September 2013 to 31 Aug 2015) from GPs and the vaccine is being offered at school for children in Reception and school years 1-4.

Simply contact your GP or pharmacy to arrange an appointment today. It's quick, safe and free for those most at risk.

# Celebrating life in age-friendly city



■ A visitor to the Lifestyle event.

Coventry hosted its first ever festival to celebrate the city's older residents— featuring exercise classes, dance workshops and expert talks and discussions.

The Coventry Life Festival was part of a campaign to make Coventry an age-friendly city and took place at Fargo Village, on Far Gosford Street.

Visitors were able to take part in a variety of activities including exercise classes, inspirational talks, dance workshops and much more.

A conference day for professionals was also held, with talks from experts and discussions on what steps need to be taken to support older people in the city.

The festival was achieved by a new partnership between EIT Health, Coventry University, Coventry City Council, Age UK Coventry and Coventry Older

Voices and was the first of its kind in the West Midlands.

Health related events are also being held over the coming months to encourage people to be more active and choose healthier lifestyles. At a recent event in the city centre people over 40 could get free 20 minutes health checks and join in other health activities.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health at the Council, said: "Coventry Life Festival was the first of its kind in Coventry. The festival celebrated Coventry's older population as well as life itself and was open to people of all ages.

"I'm really keen to stage more health related events in the city and in local neighbourhoods. These will be happening throughout the coming months."

## Speaking out on suicide prevention



■ Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, members of the 'It Takes Balls to Talk' campaign and the Coventry Blaze Ice Hockey team, plus Cllr Caan and MP for Coventry North East Colleen Fletcher at the Skydome.

The Council is working with Samaritans, the It Takes Balls to Talk campaign and mental health charity Mind (Coventry and Warwickshire) to help spread the word that help is available for support with mental health.

The partnership is working to make Coventry a zero-suicide city and to create more awareness of the support services available in the city.

Alex Cotton, Mental Health Nurse and Lead for It Takes Balls to Talk, said: "Taking a

minute to ask someone how they are doing is vital."

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport at Coventry City Council, added: "This is such an important step for Coventry. We are proud to be working with partners to address a serious issue that we don't talk about enough."

To find out more about mental health support in Coventry, visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/hero](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/hero)

## Free HIV test online

People who may be at risk of having HIV should be tested as soon as possible.

HIV is a chronic disease just like Diabetes and with early treatment people can live a long and healthy life.

Treatment can be as little as one pill a day. The test will be sent to an address of your choice in an unmarked parcel. A small blood sample is all it takes.

You can order the test at [www.test.hiv](http://www.test.hiv)

# Albert is latest Good Citizen



■ Lord Mayor Cllr Tony Skipper with Good Citizen Albert Neale.

**Albert Neale is Coventry's latest Good Citizen after he was presented with an Award by the Lord Mayor.**

Albert was commended for helping young people to achieve their goals and be independent by volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and also fundraising for Walsgrave Church of England Primary School, where he served

as a governor.

He has also been the driving force for establishing the latest Foodbank distribution point at Walsgrave Baptist Church and is a Coventry Ambassador.

To nominate someone for a Good Citizen Award complete an online form at [www.coventry.gov.uk/goodcitizen](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/goodcitizen) or pick up a form from the Council House reception.

## 50 year anniversary for residential centre

A Coventry residential centre for children with learning disabilities has celebrated 50 years of service.

Families who have benefitted from the service and carers who have worked at the centre in the

past were invited to Broad Park House in Henley Green to mark the milestone. One young person told the inspector, "I like coming here, I have fun. It's all good."

The Centre currently supports



28 families from Coventry and provides residential care to children in Coventry aged 5-17 with learning difficulties and who attend special schools.

past were invited to Broad Park House in Henley Green to mark the milestone. A recent Ofsted inspection praised the range of activities for the children and opportunities for

■ Residents, families and staff at Broad Park House in September.

## Water therapy solutions for adults

A swimming club that can help people recover from hospital operations, or help people with mobility difficulties, is keen to grow its membership.

Running since 1977, the club, at Baginton Fields School, allows members to exercise in a warm water pool, helped by a trained instructor.

Joyce Wiles, who runs the club, said: "People can exercise gently, and those who have taken part

over the years have benefited physically and mentally from the water based sessions."

Members include: people who have had strokes; those recovering from a serious accident; or people with ongoing mobility problems.

Joyce added: "We can also give tips to help people learn how to swim."

The club runs on Wednesdays from 7-9pm for £4.50. For details call Joyce on 024 7668 6695.

## Volunteer support for Cheylesmore Library



■ Volunteers pictured at the launch of the library, joined by Josh, a former Howes Primary School pupil, who designed the logo for the venue.

Coventry's first community led library opened in September. Cheylesmore Library has 25 volunteers, 17 of whom work on the counter.

Opening times have remained the same since Cheylesmore Community Association has been running the library.

A librarian is working with the volunteers to give on-the-job training and guidance for up to six

months.

During the summer the library was closed for a few weeks while refurbishment work was completed.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the library should call in at the venue in Poitiers Road, where people can learn more about the support needed at the library.

## Carrier bag cash helps create mosaic

A new, welcoming mosaic has been created at Stoke Heath Community Centre - thanks to Tesco's Bags for Life fund.

The fund provided a grant for the centre - shared with Wyken Girl Guides - for an art and horticultural project, which was worked on over the summer holidays.

The gardens were transformed with a lot of help from the local community and an inspiring mosaic created with the help of skilled artists.

Roma Hughes and Roger Waldon worked with local

children and the results were amazing.

It has now been fitted to the front wall to give a bright welcome to all visitors.

■ Local children who helped create the mosaic.





# Friargate move underway

Council staff are moving into the Friargate building next to the railway station as part of a scheme to regenerate part of the city centre.

The move will also help the Council save around half a million pounds a year.

Around 300 staff from the Financial Ombudsmen Service have also moved into two of the floors.

A further 1,500 Council staff are moving in over the coming weeks.

The Council decided in 2013 to make the move to Friargate in order to kickstart regeneration in the area, to make savings and modernise the way it works.

The local authority is reducing the number of buildings it works

from by relocating many of its staff to Friargate.

Other development work is planned at the railway site including more office buildings, shops, restaurants, hotels and new housing. Work is happening elsewhere next to the railway station to help the city cope with increasing passenger numbers.



## Flash crossing helps safer road use

Coventry has got its first 'flash crossing' on a wide section of road outside the station on the new Friargate boulevard.

The flash crossing aims to encourage drivers and pedestrians to be aware of each other and to allow vehicles and pedestrians to travel but with consideration for one another.

Councillor Jayne Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services, said

that the crossing is intended to make a bold statement outside the station - the fastest growing station outside London.

She added; "I absolutely love this section of road. It's fantastic. It's our own bit of art on the road, welcoming visitors to the city and making a memorable impression."

Designers Dolman Bowles and Eley Kishimoto first collaborated in 2014, spraying a temporary

"flash pavement rug" outside Brixton Tube to announce the first ever Brixton Design Trail.

The materials are the same as those used for zebra crossings with a life span of about five years.

The work has been funded by the Government's Local Growth Fund through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP).



■ Cllr Jayne Innes at the flash crossing on the new Friargate boulevard.

## It's all at the Co-op

Work is underway on the development of the former Co-op building in Corporation Street which will retain much of the iconic 1950's architecture while having a 21st century makeover.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration at Coventry City Council, visited the development which is being transformed into 'The Co-Operative', a mix of high-spec apartments and offices as well as retail and leisure.

He said he was impressed with the plans and that it fitted with regeneration in the area.

The development includes a residents-only gym, a private car-park and exclusive members' lounge with roof terrace, all of which will be set around a new internal parkland area.

There is also refurbished first and second floor office space available – totalling around 4,000 sq ft plus a new, glass-fronted restaurant/retail outlet.

Potential buyers for the apartments can register their interest at [info@edgproperty.co.uk](mailto:info@edgproperty.co.uk) while businesses wanting more information on the office space can contact agents Shortland Penn + Moore on 024 7717 0037.

## University opens new science and health venue

Coventry University has opened its doors to a new £59 million Science and Health building.

The building in Whitefriars Street will aid the transformation of health services training.

The venue can host more than 250 students at any one time. Communities, elite athletes, public events and school children will also make use of the professional facilities.

Professor Guy Daley, from Coventry University, said: "The building is for the whole community and will have a lasting legacy for the city, region and further afield."

The majority of the students who will use the new facility, will go on to be employed by hospitals, ambulances and clinics within the region after they graduate.

warwick  
arts centre

# CHRISTMAS 2017

## WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT

Wed 29 Nov - Sun 7 Jan

"A FUN-FILLED FROLIC"  
The Guardian

Age 3+



## Snow Mouse

Fri 1 - Sun 31 Dec

"DELIGHTFUL"  
The Stage

Ages  
3 months  
- 4 years



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

# Celebrate Christmas

in **ST MARY'S GUILDHALL**

Enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner with us in the beautiful setting of medieval St Mary's Guildhall; a perfect Christmas get together for friends and colleagues.

Available **Monday 4 December**  
to **Thursday 21 December 2017**

For information visit [www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk/specialevents](http://www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk/specialevents)  
For bookings call **024 7683 3328** | email [guildhall@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:guildhall@coventry.gov.uk)



ST MARY'S  
GUILDHALL

## Boost for Coventry Fostering Team

Coventry City Council's Fostering Team has been nominated for a prestigious award.

The team worked in partnership with film company Reel TwentyFive to produce a fostering film called 'Giants' which highlighted the special relationship between brothers and sisters.

It explains how more foster carers are urgently needed to help care for siblings who are looked after by the local authority.

'Giants' has been nominated for a Royal Television Society Award under the 'Promotional Film' category. The film also made the shortlist for the UK Public Sector Communications Awards in London earlier in the year.

The Fostering Team not

only directed the film, but led on the project working with 13 other local authorities across the midlands region to fund and promote the film, with each authority receiving its own version.

Rachel Brown, Fostering and Adoption Recruitment and Development Officer, said: "By producing the film together we have reduced costs and shared ideas."

"The film has reached many more people who might be interested in fostering."

The film can be viewed on the 'Adopt and Foster for Coventry' Facebook page or online [www.coventry.gov.uk/foster](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/foster) where there is also an application form.

To speak to the Fostering Team please call us on 024 7683 2828 or apply online [www.coventry.gov.uk/foster](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/foster)



**FOSTER FOR COVENTRY**

## Find out more

You can find out more about fostering at a number of different 'meet the team' information events.

If people have any questions about the support, training and financial package offered they can go along to any of the events listed:

- Friday 1 December, 10am-2pm, Central Library
- Wednesday 13 December, 7pm, Alan Higgs Centre, Allard Way
- Friday 5 January, 10am-2pm, Central Library
- Wednesday 10 January, 7pm, at Xcel Leisure Centre, Mitchell Avenue
- Wednesday 24 January, 7pm, at Foleshill Fire Station, Foleshill Road

To book a place, give the team a call on 024 7683 2828 or visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/fostering)

WASPS Est 150

LAND-ROVER ABOVE & BEYOND

WASPS V GLOUCESTER RUGBY SAT 23 DEC 2017 - KO 3PM

# CHRISTMAS CRACKER

FOR TICKETS VISIT [WASPS.CO.UK/TICKETS](http://WASPS.CO.UK/TICKETS)

AVIVA RUGBY

RICOH ARENA #ONCEAWASP

\*TS&CS APPLY

# Winter fun out and about

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

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](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/coombeevents). Please note that car parking charges apply. All children need to be accompanied by an adult.

## 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 10.30am – 3pm, free

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: 0783 158 2854. Suitable for adults.

## NOVEMBER

### 1-14 – Peace Festival

Including more than 50 events.

### 22 – Lights switch on

Broadgate, Coventry City Centre with Alesha Dixon.

### 25 – Walk of Light

Coombe Country Park (5.30pm – 7pm, £6 per person, booking essential) Experience the park in a different light – a walk with natural torchlight followed by stories and marshmallows by the fire (please note that only natural flaming torchlight will be used – please bring small children and pushchairs at your own discretion). Suitable for families.

## DECEMBER

### 2-23 – Snowman Trail

Coombe Country Park (10am – 3pm, £2 per trail sheet, allow yourself one hour, booking not essential). Why not pick up a trail leaflet to help you find the snowmen hidden in the park. Suitable for families.

### 2 – Wreath Workshop

Coombe Country Park (9.30am – 11.30am or 1pm – 3pm, £17.50 per person, booking essential). Create your own handmade Christmas welcome wreath with natural materials. Suitable for 15 years and over

### 3 – Logs and Cones: Children's Workshop

Coombe Country Park (10.30am – 11.30am, 11.45am – 12.45pm or 1.30pm – 2.30pm, £5 per child, booking essential) Bring your little elves to have some festive fun and create some Christmas decorations for your home using natural materials. Suitable for three years and older.

### 7 – Crafty Christmas for Adults

War Memorial Park (9.30am – 11am, £5, booking in advance is essential). Come and have some fun decorating ceramic tree decorations, a Plaster of Paris Father Christmas figure and hollow plastic baubles, all accompanied by tea, coffee, biscuits and mince pies! Suitable for adults.



### 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 20 until 23 – Santa's Grotto

Coombe Country Park (9.30am – 3.30pm, £8.50 per child, under one's 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.

### 7 Dec - 6 Jan –

### The Wind in the Willows

The Albany Theatre, Butts Road. Adapted for the stage by Mike Kenny. **Public Performances:** 15 Dec - 6 Jan 2018. **Schools Performances:** 7-21 Dec. Age Guidance: This is a family show. Suitable for four year olds or a smaller children. For tickets call 024 7699 8964 or visit [www.albanytheatre.co.uk](http://www.albanytheatre.co.uk)

## PANTO

### 10-14 Jan –

### Jack and the Beanstalk

The Albany Theatre, Butts Road. Three Spires Guildhall present the family friendly pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. For tickets call 024 7699 8964 or visit [www.albanytheatre.co.uk](http://www.albanytheatre.co.uk)

## JANUARY

### 27 – Big Birds' Breakfast

Coombe Country Park (11.30am – 12.15pm or 1.15pm – 2pm, £4 per child, booking essential) Get ready to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend by making your own bird feeders. Hang some in the trees by the bird hide and look to see who wants their breakfast. This activity will take place at the Bird Hide. Please make sure you give yourself at least half

## Visit Santa's Sleigh Ride

The beloved Coventry Co-op sleigh is now at the Transport Museum, and families can once again enjoy the magic and tradition of a visit to Santa on this extraordinary vintage ride.

People can visit the ride between 10am – 4.30pm from Friday 24 November.

For details of other activities at Coventry Transport Museum visit [www.transport-museum.com](http://www.transport-museum.com)



an hour to walk to the Bird hide prior to the session time. Suitable for three years and older.

**27 – Big Garden Bird Watch**

Rangers activities (10am – 12 noon, or 1pm to 3pm, free, no booking required). Coundon Hall Park, meet near play area. Join the rangers preparing for the Big Garden Bird Watch. Make a bird feeder to take home and collect your official RSPB sheet ready for the big watch. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

**FEBRUARY**

**10 – Hearty Valentine**

Coombe Country Park (11am – 12noon or 1pm – 2pm, £4 per child, booking essential). Come along and make some heart themed arts and crafts ready to send to your loved ones. Suitable for families.

**20 – Nature's Mobiles**

Coombe Country Park (10.30am – 11.15am or 11.30am – 12.15pm, £5 per child, booking essential) Join our team making a nature mobile using different natural materials and take it home for your home or garden. Suitable for five years and over.

**20 – Decorative Birds**

Coombe Country Park (1.15pm – 2pm or 2.15pm –

3pm, £4 per child, booking essential). As our feathered friends start to think about making their nests and finding their mates join us as we make some bird themed arts and crafts for you to take home. Suitable for families.

**20 – Fresh Air and Fun**

Rangers activities (1.30pm – 3pm, free, no booking required). Longford Park, Windmill Rd, meet near play area. Join the rangers for outdoor fun and games with activities, make and take home crafty activity with an outdoor theme. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

**21 – Hedgehogs Awake**

Coombe Country Park (10.30am – 11.15am or 11.30am – 12.15pm, 1.15pm – 2pm or 2.15pm – 3pm, £4 per child, booking essential). It's the time of year that our hibernating animals start to wake up. Come and find out some interesting facts about hedgehog themed art and crafts to take home. Suitable for families.

**21 – Fresh Air and Fun**

Rangers activities (1.30pm – 3pm, free, no booking required). Allesley Park, meet near the play area. Join the rangers for outdoor fun and games with activities, make and take home crafty activity

with an outdoor theme. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

**22 – Rockin' Robots**

War Memorial Park (1.30pm – 3pm, £3.50, booking not essential.) Join the Education Team to make yourself an army of robots to take home. Suitable for families.

**22 – Fresh Air and Fun**

Rangers activities (1.30pm – 3pm, free, no booking required.) Caludon Castle Park, meet near the play area. Join the rangers for outdoor fun and games with make and take home crafts with an outdoor theme. These events are open access, all under eights must be supervised. Rangers are not responsible for young people leaving the event.

**23 – Jungle Jingle**

War Memorial Park (1.30pm – 3pm, £3.50, booking not essential.) Come along and have fun creating some jungle animal arts and crafts. Suitable for families.

# Hit musical heads to the Belgrade

Considered one of the greatest ever musicals, The Sound of Music will take to the Belgrade's Main Stage in February 2018.

The musical tells the epic true story of the singing Von Trapp family set to Rodgers and Hammerstein's magical score. The Sound of Music took the world by storm when it was adapted for the big screen starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer in 1965. It remains the fifth highest grossing film of all time. It features some of the most memorable songs ever performed on screen and stage, including My Favourite Things, Do-Re-Mi, Climb Ev'ry Mountain, So Long Farewell and of course, The Sound of Music.

Tickets are available by calling the Belgrade Box Office on 024 7655 3055 or visiting [www.belgrade.co.uk](http://www.belgrade.co.uk) where tickets are cheaper.

## Herbert Art Gallery and Museum

**Picasso: Linocuts from the British Museum**

The Herbert Museum is showcasing works created in the late 1950s and early 1960s, by Pablo Picasso.

Linocuts from the British Museum explores the artist's expressive and experimental works with linocut techniques and ceramics.

Acquired by the British Museum in 2014 (with the support of the Art Fund), this exhibition presents some of Picasso's most important works in linocut, alongside a selection of ceramics on loan from Leicester Arts and Museums Service, by kind permission of the Estate of Lord and Lady Attenborough.

**Crafts of the Punjab**

Using the exceptional collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Crafts of the Punjab has been created especially for the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, and presents the extensive range of arts and crafts made across the area from the 2nd to the 19th century.

One of the most extraordinary pieces on show will be the Golden Throne made by a Muslim craftsman in Lahore for Ranjit Singh, the first Sikh Maharaja of the Punjab.

It features never before exhibited objects, famous artefacts and unique masterpieces of craftsmanship.

For more details visit [www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)

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# your councillors

## 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.

## 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.

## CHEYLESMORE



**Cllr Roger Bailey**  
Tel: 024 7683 4100 (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  
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**Cllr Richard Brown**  
Tel: 07563 729215 or  
024 7683 1039 or e-mail  
richard.brown@coventry.gov.uk

## 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 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

## FOLESHILL



**Cllr Tariq Khan**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or  
07944 440063 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

## HENLEY



**Cllr Patricia Seaman**  
Tel: 07813 528963 or  
024 7683 1039 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

## 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 10-11.30am at  
Holbrooks Community Centre, John  
Shelton Drive.



**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.

## 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**  
Tel: 024 7683 1002 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.

## 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

## RADFORD



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

## SHERBOURNE



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



**Cllr Lynnette Kelly**  
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail  
lynnette.kelly@coventry.gov.uk  
Lazy 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.

**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 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, 5-6pm  
 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**  
 (Deputy Lord Mayor)  
 Tel: 024 7683 3048 (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 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

**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.

**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 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-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 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.

**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 Balvinder Kaur)  
**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)

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**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

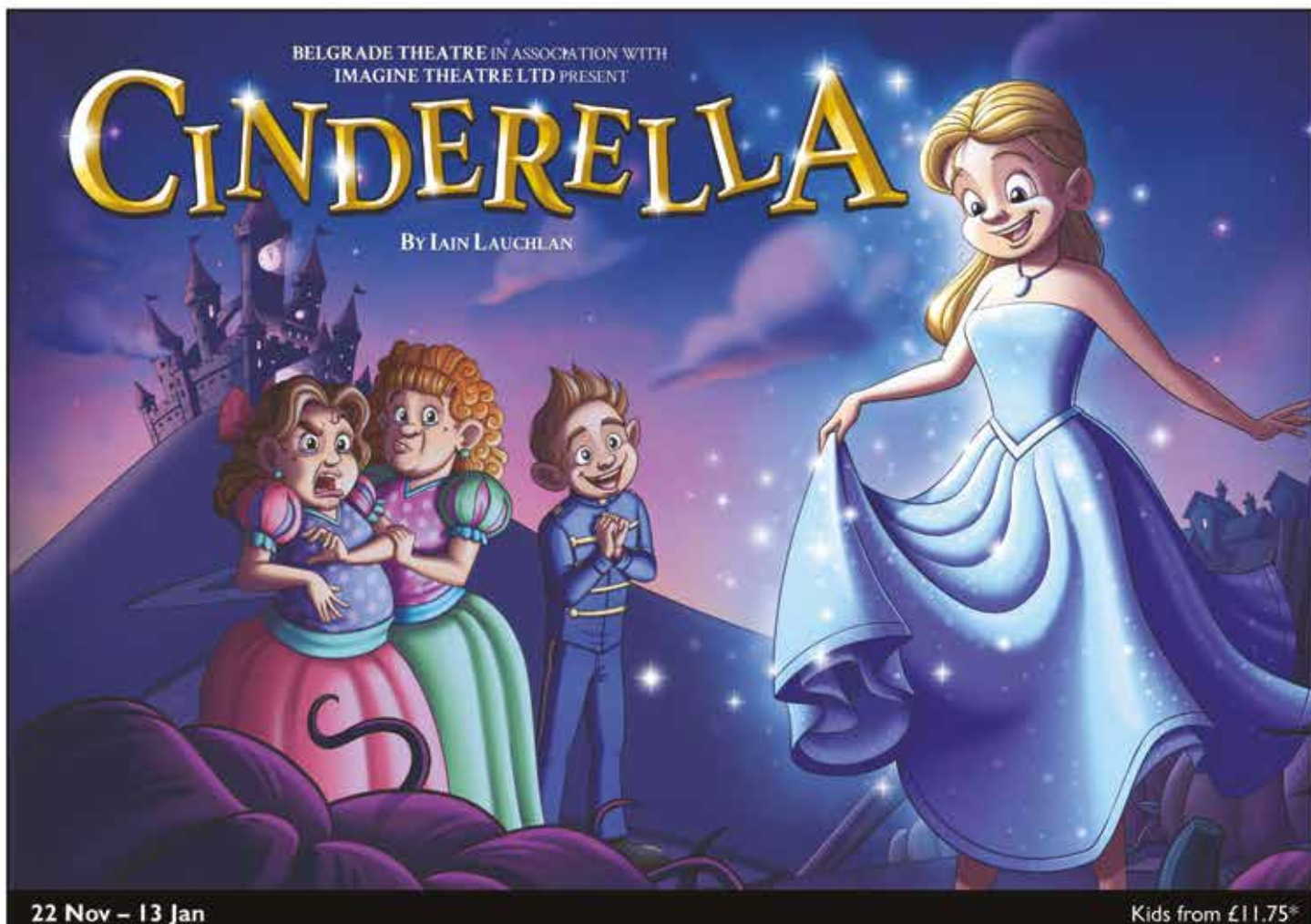
**LABOUR**  
**Neena Gill**, call 0121 622 7298  
 e-mail neenagillmep@gmail.com  
**Sion Simon**, call 0121 569 1911  
 e-mail sionsimon@sion-simon.org.uk

**UKIP**  
**James Carver**, call 01562 216020  
 e-mail mep@jamescarver.org  
**Bill Etheridge**, call 01902 664670  
 e-mail info@mepukip.com  
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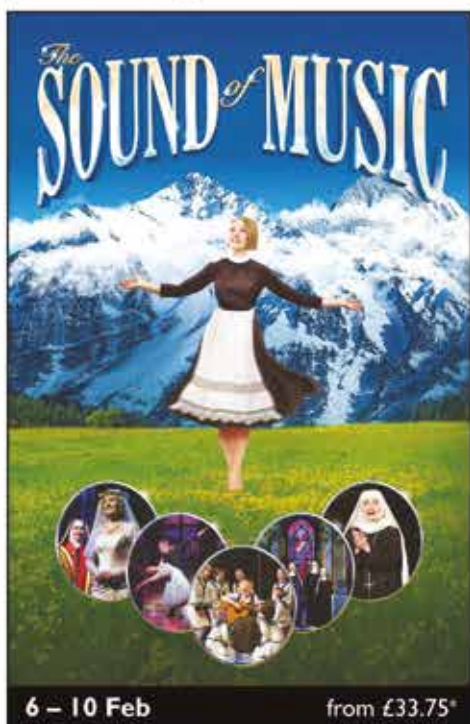
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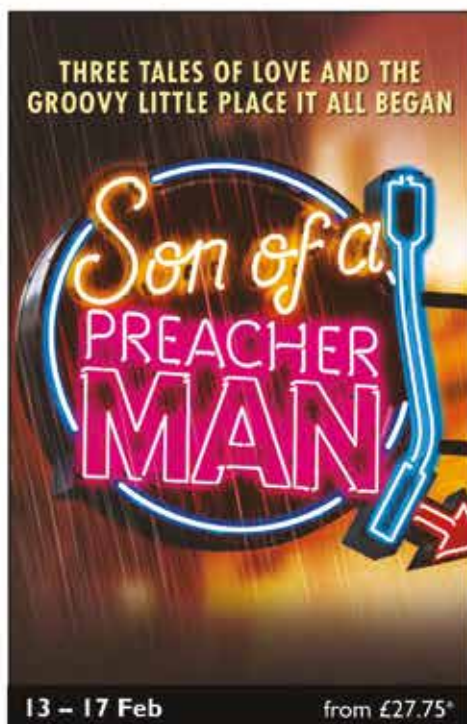


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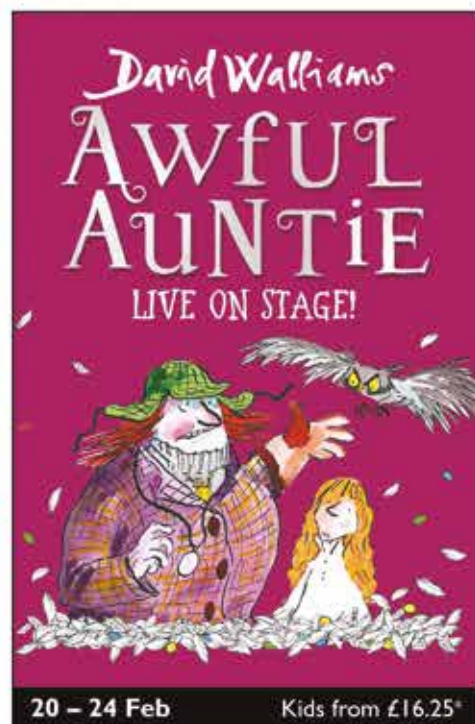
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