

Coventry

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

citivision

issue 64 | spring | 2019



*On the prowl at the Herbert Art Gallery.
Wildlife Photography of the Year exhibition.*



Spotlight on one of the city's most famous exports



On your bikes for Birmingham to Coventry cycling event



Air quality plans to cut Nitrogen Dioxide emissions

warwick arts centre

THIS SUMMER

ANATOMICAL

The Buidy-Uppy Dance Show
Tue 16 - Sat 20 Apr



FRECKLE PRODUCTIONS AND ROSE THEATRE KINGSTON

ZOG
by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
Fri 24 - Sun 26 May



An Audience with Joanna Trollope
Thu 25 Apr



An Audience with Harry Redknapp
Sun 12 May



Warwick Arts Centre
@warwickarts
warwickarts

Box Office 024 7652 4524
warwickartscentre.co.uk
Warwick Arts Centre, The University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

Warwick Arts Centre – the region's biggest arts and entertainment venue. FREE parking after 6pm

St George's Day

Tuesday 23 April 2019 in Broadgate

BETWEEN 11AM AND 3PM

Come along for a flamin' fun-filled day with George and the gang



For up-to-date information visit www.coventry.gov.uk/stgeorges

From the top



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

A city built on partnerships

Increasingly our efforts as a Council to improve life in the city are involving many other agencies. This applies to our work to combat homelessness, the steps we are taking to improve the city centre, to tackle crime and lots more. The Knife Angel sculpture will be coming to Coventry. There is an interesting article on it in this issue of Citivision. The 27-foot high figure is built using more than 100,000 weapons confiscated by police forces throughout the country.

This will offer a focal point for us as a city, an opportunity to set out our shared desire to overcome violent crime. But we need all partners to be a part of the solution – I'm sure we will mobilise support.

Elsewhere, we are finalising a balanced budget for the year ahead and I'm pleased that there are no new cuts to frontline services.

We're putting more resources into housing and homelessness, and targeting extra services to address fly-tipping.

We can look forward to spring and summer with some optimism, as plans are underway to remove the escalator in Upper Precinct; there is the development of the 50m pool at the Alan Higgs Centre, and the new bigger Half Marathon will run later in March.

There's lots more in this issue of Citivision, and there will be more developments to talk about in the months ahead. We can also look forward to another free Godiva Festival, which continues to receive plaudits from throughout the region.

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

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

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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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If you would like to advertise in the next issue of Citivision, contact Darren O'Shaughnessy on 024 7683 1075. Coventry City Council is grateful for the support from advertisers in this issue of Citivision, but accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of adverts.

All details correct at the time of going to print (19 February).

Coventry's digital transformation on track



Coventry residents are a step closer to accessing next-generation full fibre connectivity after CityFibre started construction work to extend its state-of-the-art infrastructure throughout the city.

This latest phase of development is part of CityFibre's national Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) project, which aims to bring full fibre to up to one million UK premises by 2021 in partnership with Vodafone. The construction project will trial partial aerial deployment as well as traditional build methods, with Longford, Upper Stoke, Foleshill and Holbrooks set to be the first areas to benefit.

According to research the local housing market could increase in value by £101m, while businesses could unlock £57m through increased productivity and innovation.

Cllr Richard Brown, Chair of the Audit and Procurement Committee at Coventry City Council, said:

"We are all well aware of the importance of effective communications. People buying or renting a new home and new start-up businesses will weigh up a list of factors when considering where to locate, and the quality of digital communications is crucial."

For details visit cityfibre.com/coventry

■ Pictured: Matthew Boshell (CityFibre's Construction Manager), Cllr Richard Brown (Digital Champion, Coventry City Council), Leigh Hunt (City Development Manager, CityFibre), Cllr Jim O'Boyle (Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, Coventry City Council) and Wayne Lydon (Civils Supervisor, Morrison Utility Services).

Knife Angel; a symbol against crime



A sculpture created from confiscated knives used to commit crimes is to go on display outside Coventry Cathedral.

The Knife Angel is a national monument against violence and aggression and aims to show the impact knife crime has on people's lives.

With concerns around crimes in towns and cities well documented, the Knife Angel is expected in Coventry during March and April.

The 27-foot sculpture is made up of more than 100,000 weapons confiscated by 43 police forces across the country and was created by artist Alfie Bradley at the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry, Shropshire.

It took four years to build the Knife Angel after permission was granted by the Home Office to collect the knives.

Cllr Ed Ruane, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities believes that the sculpture is symbolic and called for the city to really define its reputation for peace and reconciliation.

He said:

"We need change, it's really important that the Knife Angel will have a high profile in the city."

The ironwork centre began collecting the weapons by creating knife banks in each police force area.

Clive Knowles of the British Ironwork Centre is inviting other cities to host the Angel.



Godiva Festival is set to return this July. After the success of last year's free family music festival event, organisers are in the process of lining up musicians to perform at the three day event.

Dates for your diary are **Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July 2019**



The Go CV card – coming soon

Exclusive to Coventry residents only and launching in April 2019, the Go CV card will offer a range of discounts at attractions across the city such as The Wave – Coventry's new waterpark.

Visit coventry.gov.uk/gocv for more information.



Experts keeping athletes on top form

Coventry is set to become a centre of athletic excellence and high performance training, with the opening of a new hub.

The Coventry University Future Health initiative will offer athletes and sports teams in the city everything from sports therapy and physiotherapy, to nutrition advice to help teams boost their performance, and keep athletes at the top of their game.

The hub will offer access to state-of-the-art facilities, including an environmental chamber, sports therapy clinics, biometrics assessments, gait analysis using 3D motion capture, exercise physiology testing, and sport psychology suites.

The hub will focus on boosting sport and exercise as well as helping injured athletes return to full-time training.

Anne Coufopoulos, Associate Dean at the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, said:

"We currently have excellent links with NHS services and this will bring all of these services under one umbrella."

Once established, Future Health will also look to host a dedicated sports doctor and range of orthopaedic sports services.

Anyone interested in services can contact the team via the website at www.coventry.ac.uk/study-at-coventry/faculties-and-schools/health-and-life-sciences/future-health



■ Pictured: The advertising campaign will feature a giant wheel clamp highlighting the penalties that tax evaders face.

Clamping down on car tax evasion

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has launched a new advertising campaign targeting 12 areas in the country where vehicle tax evasion is highest.

In addition to the adverts, the DVLA will be in the areas, taking action against vehicles that are untaxed. The campaign will focus on the consequences of not taxing your vehicle – from financial penalties to court action to clamping and ultimately the loss of a car.

Motorists can go online, 24 hours a day, to tax a vehicle or check whether their vehicle tax is up to date at www.gov.uk/dvla/taxyourvehicle

Protection order proposal to help tackle crime

West Midlands Police and Coventry City Council are consulting on a possible Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering areas in the city centre and surrounding areas.

The police have reported a 20 per cent increase in violent crime across Coventry in the last 12 months – with a spike in violence recently in some locations around and on the edge of the city centre.

According to senior police officers, a PSPO would assist them in combating crime by enabling officers to act more quickly and effectively if they suspect people have gathered in the city centre intent on causing trouble.

The order gives police the power to move on any groups who they believe are an anti-social behaviour or crime risk.

Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, said that no decision could be made without getting feedback from the public, businesses, partners and people who visit the city centre.

He said:

"Evidence from the police and partners has clearly set out concerns and it's important we get a wider understanding of what local people think."

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, a ward councillor in St Michael's Ward, said it is absolutely vital to tackle the problem of serious violent crime head on.

He said:

"We are talking about wide-scale violent and organised crime that I believe is escalating in parts of my ward and elsewhere."

Superintendent Phil Healy added:

"I'm pleased the Council has recommended that we seek public consultation on the proposal with a view to introducing a PSPO in the city centre."

It is possible that a PSPO could be in place by July and would be valid for three years.

People can comment on the proposal by visiting coventry.gov.uk/citycentrepspo

Sleep rough so others don't have to

Challenge yourself - spend a night out in the cold to help beat youth homelessness.

The YMCA are holding a sleep-out at Coventry Rugby Club's The Butts Stadium on **Friday 29 March from 7pm-7am.**

Registration costs £20 for an individual, or £50 for a team of up to six people.

You can also get sponsored to raise as much as possible for young people in need. Visit the YMCA website to register.

City Council to report on balanced budget

The Council is set to announce a balanced budget for the city in 2019/20.

Senior councillors heard details of the local authority's annual budget report at its Council meeting.

The Council is responsible for in the region of 800 services which have an impact on all aspects of life in the city.

The report sets out a proposal for an overall Council Tax increase of 2.9 per cent, as allowed for within Government guidelines.

For the majority of Coventry households in the city in bands A and B this will mean an annual increase of £30.90 for band A and £36.06 – the equivalent of 70p per week for those in band B.

A final decision will require the support of councillors. The Council has been able to balance its budget despite needing to find more money for the costs of homelessness and waste disposal.

Cllr John Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, said he was pleased that frontline services would be unaffected and that no new cuts were necessary to services.

He said the Council was able to earmark more funding for a number of key services, including its work to tackle homelessness and to reduce fly-tipping as well as support for the UK City of Culture programme.

He added:

“We are all well aware that we have a national housing crisis with rising numbers of rough sleepers in the city centre, and hundreds of families in unsuitable B&B accommodation. We are working hard to reduce homelessness and have identified a number of

projects to ensure more temporary accommodation is available.

“I’m also keen to see more done to address fly-tipping in communities in the city. Last year we put extra funds towards targeted fly-tipping removal teams in areas where the biggest problems exist. Frontline services will be unaffected and no new cuts have been necessary.”

For details visit coventry.gov.uk/budget

Food project tackles poverty

A food project that is available to residents and families in Foleshill is helping low income families who struggle to balance their living costs.

The Real Junk Food Project Coventry is a “Pay as You Feel” Café where visitors can pay with cash if they are able to do so or by donating time and/or skills – for example helping to tidy up when the venue closes.

The Families for all Hub set up a café from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on Mondays where up to 60 individuals and families enjoy a freshly prepared meal using quality surplus food rescued from local shops and supermarkets.

Bharti Patel, Families for all Hub Team Leader, said:

“I’m delighted that we have been able to set this up at the hub. We know there is a need, and working with colleagues and the community has grown from strength to strength.”

Cllr Balvinder Kaur, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, said the volunteers have been doing a fantastic job. She added:

“This is a really important project in the heart of the community. I’d like to thank Bharti and everyone who makes the Junk Food Project work. It’s so wonderful to see so many people coming together from all walks of life.”

One parent who regularly attends the Monday night café has been battling depression and said that it made a massive difference to his life. The café is open to everyone.

A team of volunteers collects surplus food from local supermarkets, to prepare and serve, and clean up too.

A café also runs on Fridays from noon to 2pm at Foleshill Baptist Church.

The hub also provides other activities on the same evening chosen by the young people.



■ Pictured: Local partners leading on the Real Junk Food Project with volunteers and local families joined by Cllr Balvinder Kaur.



Making our voice heard

Young people in Coventry have been supporting an event to get more involved in plans and events for the City of Culture 2021 to tackle crime and improve wellbeing.

The 11 Million Day Takeover Challenge is a national day which take place every year across England. It encourages organisations to welcome children and younger people to take over their roles, celebrating young people and giving them an insight into decision-making.

Coventry young people Leah, Deepti, Ella and Shianne who took part in the day, were recently pictured in the Council Chamber during the event. See photo above.



Recycled laptops a hit with Silver Surfers

The group was set up in 2010, in the Bell Green Community Centre following the closure of a course at Bell Green Library. It has recently benefited from the Council's recycled laptop scheme.

John O'Sullivan, who has been a part of Bell Green Silver Surfers from when it was first set up, said the project has always responded to people's needs.

He said:

“The recycled laptops are a brilliant idea, because people who are learning can take them home.

“One woman who couldn't read or write was able to use the laptop because of the spell checking facility.

“It's also marvellous for health and wellbeing.

Fewer people are attending GP surgeries. Sometimes people turn up for the company. I'm amazed and very proud.

“We've secured grants from the Health Lottery. We've been held up nationally as a unique example of good practice.”

The group meets every Thursday morning at Bell Green Community Centre.

John added:

“No decisions are made without the agreement of all members.”

■ Pictured: John O'Sullivan, centre front, with some of the other members of the group.

A community-based group known as the Bell Green Silver Surfers has been helping its members, aged 67 to 94, to become more comfortable using digital media while also helping reduce isolation in the community.

Air quality proposals to cut Nitrogen Dioxide

Coventry councillors will be asked to back plans that will help to tackle air pollution in Coventry, as towns and cities across the country try to address Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) pollution.



Coventry is one of 27 towns and cities in the UK where NO₂ levels are forecast to exceed legal limits by 2020.

Older diesel vehicles contribute to approximately half of the emitted NO₂ in Coventry.

Holyhead Road (between the Ring Road and the Alvis Retail Park) and Walsgrave Road (along Ball Hill) have particular issues with NO₂ pollution. The Council is working with the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit.

£2m has already been secured to help the Council introduce early measures to address the issues in the Walsgrave corridor.

Councillors say they have no intention of introducing a Clean Air Zone (CAZ).

Air quality affects more vulnerable people because of their age or existing medical conditions.

A series of initiatives is being identified, including the uptake of electric taxis, new low emission buses, installation of electric charging points, and highways improvements.

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

“This is an important opportunity to make use of the innovative technology being developed in this city. Air pollution is a long-standing problem and there is an opportunity to address this in a creative way.

“At the same time myself and colleagues are clear about our opposition to any Clean Air Zone.”

To view the Local Air Quality Action Plan up until 31 March, visit coventry.gov.uk/airquality

Lasting tribute to former councillor

A tree has been planted in memory of the city's first ever female Asian councillor and former Lady Mayoress, Meto Lakha.

Meto passed away in February 2012. She made history in Coventry when she became the first female Asian councillor in May 1992 and she was also the city's first Asian Deputy Lady Mayoress of Coventry City Council in 2004.

Her husband, Cllr Ram P. Lakha OBE, Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services, said the tree would be a fitting tribute:

“I am so pleased to have been able to plant this tree as a lasting tribute to my wonderful late wife, Meto. She was an inspirational figure and I look forward to watching the tree flourish over the years.”

The tree was planted near the junction of Binley Road and Brays Lane.



■ Pictured: at the ceremonial tree planting was Coventry-raised Mary Creagh MP, Chair of the Environment Audit Committee; Colleen Fletcher MP; the Council Leader, George Duggins and numerous Coventry City Councillors.

Food voucher requests increasing

Citizens Advice workers are finding allocations of food vouchers have continued to increase, as has the number of visits by people with Universal Credit problems.

Dozens of people making claims for Universal Credit (UC) in Coventry have been facing challenges with their initial claim.

Claimants are also often having difficulties with housing payments, having deductions from UC for debts and overpayments, and sanctions are now beginning to emerge.

Ed Hodson, Research and Campaigns Co-ordinator at Coventry Citizens Advice, believes the roll-out of Universal Credit is having an impact:

“We are seeing increasing numbers of struggling clients in food crisis who attribute their difficulties to issues with their Universal Credit. Whether waiting weeks for an initial ‘on-time payment’, or having difficulties receiving their full entitlements later on, clients are finding themselves unable to live on their benefit income. In this sense the social security safety net is not working.”

There is lots of useful advice available for UC claimants at: www.gov.uk/universal-credit

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universalcrit

www.coventry.gov.uk/universalcrit

If you are not online, Universal Credit can be contacted on: **0800 328 5644.**

The Citizens Advice Helpline (‘advice line’) can be reached on: **0344 411 144.**



It’s all at the revamped Co-Op

Developers at a key regeneration scheme in Coventry city centre are set to unveil a showhome that will bring the project to life.

Award-winning EDG Property will showcase a two-bedroom show-apartment at The Co-Operative, which is offering the highest specification homes within the city centre as part of the redevelopment of the former Co-Op department store.

The apartment will overlook the city’s only internal park,

where four Italy Cypress trees were shipped in and planted before the turn of the year.

EDG Property is taking registrations now for appointments to view the show-apartment.

Neil Edginton, Managing Director of EDG Property, said The Co-Operative is on course to be a major success story for the city of Coventry.

He said:

“We are 50 per cent sold on the apartments and that is all off-plan, without the chance to see a showhome – until now!”

“We recently announced that Rodizio Rico – a Brazilian-themed restaurant – is coming to The Co-Operative, adding to the success of the commercial element of the scheme, joining Café Morso and SteakOut.”

The apartments offer open-plan living and luxury fittings throughout, including Porcelanosa kitchens and bathrooms.

The apartments are set within the 1950s building.

To register for an appointment to view the show-apartment, email info@edgproperty.co.uk

Benefits changes for mixed-age couples

Currently couples where the oldest person has reached pension age and the other person is younger are able to claim Pension Credit as soon as the oldest member of the couple reaches this age if they are on a low income.

From 15 May this rule will be changing so that both members of the couple have to have reached pension age before they can claim Pension Credit. Until then they will have to claim Universal Credit if they do not have enough money to live on. Universal Credit is a much less generous benefit than Pension Credit and the average loss to those affected will be £7,000 per year.

Couples who have claimed Pension Credit before 15 May will be protected. The couples affected will be those with an age gap between the oldest and youngest member (known as mixed-age).

The Welfare Reform Group is planning to organise publicity and activities to encourage people who can take action to protect themselves from the effect of these changes to do so.

If you are in a couple and the oldest member of the couple has reached pension age you should claim Pension Credit if you are eligible. If you are not sure you should check your entitlement. You can contact an advice agency such as Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureau or Coventry Independent Advice Service to assist you with getting a benefit check if you are not sure. You should claim your Pension Credit even if it is only a small amount.

‘Gum blaster’ helping tackle a sticky problem



■ Pictured: Cllr Hetherton with Street Pride officers Gordon Geddes and Tim Fox.

Chewing gum removal from city streets is costing Coventry City Council thousands of pounds per year.

As part of a clean-up in the city centre a machine that uses steam to blast and remove discarded chewing gum, is speeding up the process of the gum removal.

The Gum-E creates steam pressure to remove the gum and not damage the surface of the pavement.

It is easy and quick to use and was recently demonstrated in Broadgate.

Cllr Patricia Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services, who wanted to see the effectiveness of the machine, said:

“Gum is so difficult to remove a specialist machine is needed. People can receive a littering fine for dropping discarded gum, and we need to

remind people of their responsibility.

“There is an argument that chewing gum manufacturers should contribute to the national cost to councils of gum removal.

“I can understand that viewpoint. We do need to find longer term solutions to this ongoing problem. The Gum-E machine is really quick and is helping us to keep on top of a costly and ongoing problem.”

Keep Britain Tidy say that 99% of main shopping streets and 64% of all roads and pavements are stained by chewing gum.

Older volunteers needed

Now, in its 80th year, Coventry Citizens Advice is looking for older people to volunteer their time and talents as ‘Information and Digital Assistants’ within their newly launched Digital Support Hub.

The Hub is designed to increase digital access to vulnerable clients in our city to help them search for information online, bid for social housing, signpost to local services, complete online forms and access food or fuel vouchers.

Coventry CA currently needs 20-30 new volunteers to become advisers through its three channels of telephone, email/webchat and face-to-face support. No previous experience is needed as full training and support will be given with expenses paid.

For a free information pack, email volunteering@coventrycab.org.uk.

Accolade for Thrust SSC exhibit

The first land vehicle to break the speed of sound, which is housed in Coventry Transport Museum, has been honoured with an award that puts it alongside engineering greats such as Concorde and The Channel Tunnel.

The iconic 54ft long Thrust SSC reached a speed of 764mph in the Black Rock Desert, Nevada in October 1997 and has since been on permanent display in the museum.



■ Pictured: Francis Ranford (front, centre) holds the award from IMechE with guests at the presentation.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) has now presented the team with the Engineering Heritage Award.

Concorde, The Channel Tunnel, The E-Type Jaguar and Alan Turing’s Bombe at Bletchley Park are all previous recipients.

Francis Ranford, Cultural and Creative Director of Culture Coventry added:

“We are thrilled that this pioneering vehicle has been presented with this important accolade.”

Museum visitors can ride a 4D simulator of the land-speed record attempt. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3.50 for concessions.

Boost for parents

Free courses from the family hubs are available for anyone who cares for children and young people.

Courses include Triple P positive parenting, sessions to help those with teenagers or children with a diagnosed disability, Family Links Nurture, Family Links Antenatal and Living with Confidence for mothers.

Over 150 people benefitted from the courses last term,

including Timothy Rayman, who completed a Triple P course for children aged 0-12.

Timothy said: *“The course has made me a better parent and I feel I have increasing confidence.”*

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



Wild about photography

The cool cat pictured above is a lioness drinking from a waterhole in Zambia's South Luangwa National Park. She is one of the Mfuwe Lodge pride.

The spectacular image was taken by South African photographer Isak Pretorius. His photograph was highly commended in the Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2018. The images are on display during spring at the Herbert Art Gallery. The acclaimed competition captures the natural world, from breath-taking animal portraits and dramatic landscapes, to bizarre species and endangered habitats.

Winning photographs were chosen from over 45,000 submissions by expert judges. Entries for the 2019 Wildlife Photographer of the Year are now closed, with the winners to be announced in October.

Visitors can see the image and dozens more at the renowned photography exhibition on view at the **Herbert Art Gallery – exhibited until 2 June**

Taxi's past remembered

One of Coventry's most famous exports is in the spotlight at a major new exhibition in the city.

The Coventry Transport Museum, which houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world, is chronicling the history of the taxi and celebrating its 120 year connection to the city. **Taxi: The Story from A to B** will run until **12 May**.

The black cab, which has been continuously manufactured in Coventry since the 1940s, is used by millions of people in the UK each year as well as being exported across the world.

The exhibition, which was curated by Patrick Murphy as



part of an artist residency at the museum starting in 2017, includes a range of early taxi models, including a 1910 Humber Taxi and a 1930s Austin High Lot.

Cabs from across the world also feature, including the famous yellow New York Checker Taxi, and the Toyota Crown Taxi – all the way from Japan.

For details visit www.transport-museum.com



Big screens are back

The University of Warwick is hosting a series of free screenings from the Royal Opera House this summer.

Held at the University piazza, visitors can bring their friends and a picnic to soak up free culture on their doorstep.

Three Tuesday performances will be aired on a big screen at the University campus including:

TUESDAY 11 JUNE
Romeo and Juliet Royal Ballet (pictured above)
pre-screening starts at **7pm**

TUESDAY 2 JULY
Carmen The Royal Opera
pre-screening starts at **6.30pm**

TUESDAY 9 JULY
The Marriage of Figaro Royal Opera
pre-screening starts at **7pm**

Audience members can bring their own cushion to make the experience extra comfortable.

Big Pedal challenge for schools

Pupils, staff and parents across the city are being encouraged to take part in a challenge to make their school journey by human power.



■ Pictured: TV presenter Angelica Bell joins young people to launch the Big Pedal.

Schools and pupils who take part in the challenge will be entered into local and national prize draws to win fantastic prizes, including scooters, balance bikes and tickets to BMX stunt shows and the winning schools in each category will receive a trophy to recognise their achievements.

For the first time, walking will be counted alongside Sustrans Big Pedal. It's the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking

and scooting challenge inspiring pupils, staff and parents to choose human power for their journey to school.

Sustrans Big Pedal will run for 10 days from **25 March to 5 April** and is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN schools.

Schools that cannot take part in the 10 days of the challenge can take part in a one day challenge.

For details visit bigpedal.org.uk

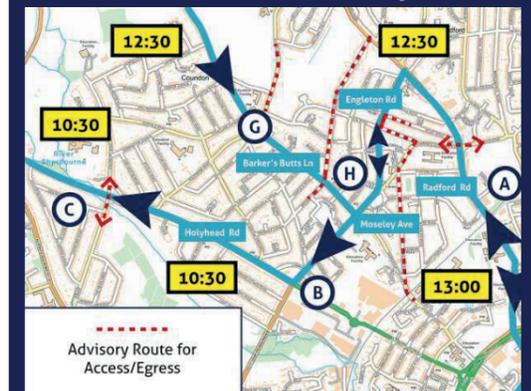
Crossing Points

- A Lawrence Saunders Road to/from Lydgate Road
Closed 8:30am - 12:00pm
- B Browett Road into Moseley Avenue (exit only)
Closed 8:30am - 9:25am
- C Kingsbury Road to/from Grayswood Avenue
Closed 8:30am - 9:35am
- D Coundon Wedge Drive to/from Pickford Way
Closed 8:30am - 9:40am
- E Browns Lane to/from The Windmill Hill
Closed 8:40am - 9:55am
- F Brownhill Green Road
Closed 9:15am - 11:15am
- G Cedars Avenue/Southbank Road/ Courtland Avenue into Scotts Lane
Closed 9:15am - 11:30am
- H Browett Road into Three Spires Avenue
Closed 9:15am - 11:30

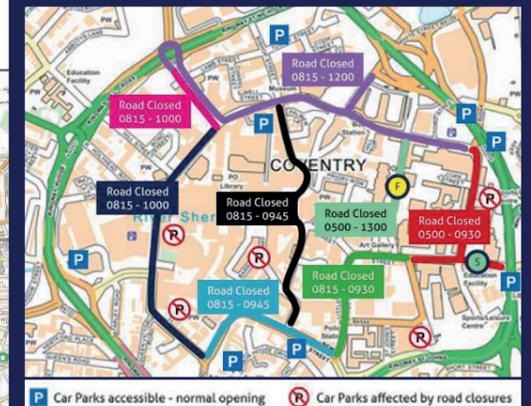
Estimated road reopening times: 10:30, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 13:00

Legend: Start (S), Finish (F), Roads open in one direction at all times

Coundon and Radford advisory routes



City Centre closures and parking



For up-to-date travel information visit enjoycoventry.com/festivalofrunning

Hundreds on their marks for Half Marathon - 24 March

The Festival of Running is a celebration of sport coming to Coventry this March. Over two weekends, 4,000 runners will take to the streets and parks of Coventry in a range of events for all ages and abilities.

The Festival starts with the **Children's Mile and Toddler Dash** in the War Memorial Park on **Sunday 17 March**, before finishing on **Sunday 24** with the **Coventry Half Marathon and GoRun 5k Fun Run**.

The Half Marathon route takes runners around the south of the city centre before looping back finishing in the shadow of the Cathedral. Finishers will collect their t-shirt and medal before enjoying a massage,

well-earned food and more in the runners village.

■ **Road closure advice**
On **Sunday 24 March** there will be temporary road closures in effect for parts of the route in both the city centre and surrounds. Most closures will start operating from 7am and will reopen once runners have passed by and it is safe to do so. Roads will begin reopening from 9.15am and will be fully reopened by 1pm.



For more details and entries visit enjoycoventry.com/festivalofrunning
The Festival of Running is organised by Coventry University Students' Union with support from sponsors **Medwell Hyde,**

Coventry College, Coventry Runner, and Exasoft. Official partner charities include **Myton Hospice, Penny Appeal, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, and Zoe's Place.**

30 minute talks offer punters a pint of science

After the success of last year's launch, **Pint of Science** will be returning from **20-22 May** in pubs and other venues across **Coventry and Leamington Spa.**

Pint of Science is a three-night festival where staff and students from Coventry and Warwick Universities each spend 30 minutes presenting their research to the public in an easy to follow, informal and fun way.

Last year researchers covered popular conversation starters such as the weather and the England football team; or delved deeper in to biology and social elements including our mental health. There were even theatrical performances from the Napoleonic War!

Event details and tickets will be available at www.pintofscience.co.uk/events/coventry from **8 April.**

Explaining the role of culture through the city's pioneers and activists



The UK City of Culture 2021 proudly states on its website that it's time for Coventry to take centre stage and show the world all it has to offer. Run by Coventry City of Culture Trust, an independent charity that has been set up to manage the process, the team has been busy setting out the foundations for what will be a spectacular year.

Organisers say that Coventry has been moving people by cycle, car and peace for centuries and now we will move people through culture. Here's a taste of what's happening so far.

Horrible Histories in Coventry

Famous figures from Coventry's past have been given the Horrible Histories treatment as the team behind one of the best loved children's TV programmes has been filming in the city.

A crew from Lion TV, producers of Horrible Histories for CBBC, has visited the city to film sketches and songs at St Mary's Guildhall, Drapers' Hall and The Charterhouse.

The show, which airs on CBBC, is based on the best-selling Horrible Histories books written by Terry Deary illustrated by Martin Brown and published by Scholastic.

The team spent two days in the city filming sketches based

on Lady Godiva and Margaret of Anjou as well as a song for Ira Aldridge, after conversations with the Coventry City of Culture and Historic Coventry Trusts.

BAFTA-award winning Jess Ransom starred as Lady Godiva and Queen Margaret of Anjou, Javone Prince played Ira Aldridge and Tom Stourton featured as Sir Henry Beaufort among other characters.



For more information please visit coventry2021.co.uk



New corporate supporters

Coventry's plans for UK City of Culture in 2021 have received fresh business backing from across the region.

Support from the business community was a major factor in Coventry securing the title, with momentum continuing to grow. New additions to the 2021 Club include Leap IT, Rowley Auto, Utility Team, Twycross Zoo, Aquarius Interiors and Skydome Coventry, managed by Colliers International. These new members mean that current membership stands at 145 companies in the club, with the Trust's aim to reach 150.

■ Pictured: Sharon Redrobe, Twycross Zoo, Liz Steele, Skydome, Coventry, Pamela Offer, Aquarius Interiors, Julia Baron, Utility Team, Nicole Malatesta, Coventry 2021, Stuart Watson, Leap IT, Simon Chambers, Rowley Auto and Tommy.

If you would like to find out more information about how your business could support the Trust please contact nicole.malatesta@coventry2021.co.uk



#HumansOfCov project launched

Coventry City of Culture Trust has launched its first major campaign since Coventry won the title UK City of Culture 2021.

The campaign entitled #HumansOfCov throws a spotlight on the human rights of people across the city and beyond. It both highlights the everyday heroes in Coventry's communities, and the grassroots activism of the city, as well as opening a conversation about human rights and what they mean for a modern and diverse city in the 21st century.

#HumansOfCov launched as world nations commemorated the 70th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which was signed on 10 December, 1948.

To launch the campaign, a 14ft mobile, illuminated peace poem, entitled Paper Peace

toured different parts of the city alongside project facilitators from Emergency Exit Arts, who opened a discussion with communities and local people about human rights and where they fit in today's modern society.

The first #HumansOfCov projects of 2019 are already quickly taking shape. Working with Photo Archive Miners, the Trust has begun populating the @humansofcov Instagram page with photos and interviews of Coventry locals and will continue to develop this work over the coming months. The Trust has also commissioned 30 local artists working in spoken word, poetry and storytelling to produce inspiring pieces in response to the 30 human rights articles.

A new webpage will go live soon showcasing all the activity #HumansOfCov has to offer.

The Coventry City of Culture Trust is recruiting

A number of new roles has been created to ensure that the Coventry team delivers the revolutionary vision for the UK City of Culture programme in 2021 and beyond, and more posts will follow in the coming months.

The Trust will use the title to explore the role of culture in a modern and diverse Britain,

which is firmly rooted in Coventry's history drawing on its great pioneers and activists from Lady Godiva to 2-tone and its reputation as a city of peace and invention.

And the recent recruitment drive reflects the team's desire to develop a programme that engages the people of Coventry and shines an international spotlight on the city.

Creative Director, Chenine Bhatena said:

"At this time of global change and ongoing austerity there is no more important time to be considering the role of artists and cultural organisations in communities and city-wide development."

"For me and the team, this has always been about much more than a year of programming and events. We are at a different moment in history when we need to empower our communities, consider our cultural democracy and create a diverse and playful programme that drives our new cultural movement."





■ Pictured: Ross Venus, Coventry Blaze ice hockey player, Alex Cotton, campaign founder and far right former Coventry Blaze player Liam Stewart.

Blaze backing for winning campaign

The team behind a campaign to encourage men to talk more openly about mental health has won two awards.

'It Takes Balls to Talk' is a community focused campaign to raise awareness of suicide prevention. Coventry Blaze are its latest supporters. It is run in collaboration between Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, Coventry and Warwickshire Mind, Coventry Samaritans, Unite the Union, Public Health Coventry and Public Health Warwickshire. The campaign is also supported by volunteers who are the heart of the campaign.

Its work was successful in winning 'The Collaboration Award' in the Legal & General 'Not a Red Card' awards. In addition, a few weeks later, the team won the 'Addressing Mental Health Inequalities Award' in the Positive Practice in Mental Health awards.

Volunteers share a simple, powerful message at sporting events and male dominated workplaces. For details visit www.ittakesballstotalk.com



Getting healthier in 2019

2019 is earmarked as the Coventry and Warwickshire Year of Wellbeing. Now that it is underway, the city's Health and Wellbeing Board (pictured left) got together to talk about plans for the year and what we can expect moving forward. Some Board members also shared their pledge as part of their own wellbeing, which we will be sharing in the coming weeks.

The Wellbeing Board helps to make the local NHS work better by strengthening working relationships between health and social care; encouraging the development of more joined-up services; and giving communities a greater say in understanding and addressing local health and care needs.

With so much on the horizon, there's never been a better time to get involved, so if you haven't already made your Year of Wellbeing pledge find out more by visiting the Year of Wellbeing website.

Throughout the year people are being encouraged to be more active. It may be something as

simple as walking further each day than you do now, not using the car as much, drinking more water each day, or maybe you are planning to take on a marathon! It can be as easy or as challenging as you please.

People can also get involved on social media using the following hashtags: **#LetsDoThisTogetherCW** **#onething**

Carers' to help shape mental health recovery

Despite 1.5 million people in the UK caring for someone with mental ill health, they often report that their involvement in care is unrecognised and their expert knowledge of the 'well person' is not always taken into account.

As a result, the Triangle of Care service has been developed to bring carers, patients and health professionals together. It aims to promote safety and recovery for people with mental health problems and to aid their wellbeing.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust is rolling out the Triangle of Care initiative which will enable them to work productively with carers to enable their involvement in care and treatment wherever possible.

For details visit www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/carers-information



Knitter's fundraiser for life-saving cause

A woman who suffers from a debilitating illness which makes interaction with the outside world absolutely terrifying is raising much-needed funds for a service which provides urgent deliveries of blood on motorbikes.



Linda Barks, 60, of Shepshed in Leicestershire, decided to make sure that something "worthwhile" came out of her debilitating dissociative identity disorder.

Linda is helping Warwickshire and Solihull Blood Bikes (WSBB) by selling knitted blood bike figures, kitted out in full uniform, including the special heart badge. E-mail lindabarks@hotmail.com

All of the charity's bikers and other people involved in running the service work full-time elsewhere, giving up precious free time to ride the blood bikes.

In 10 years since WSBB was set up, it has completed more than 6,700 potentially life-saving journeys. Most of the work serves Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull. For details visit www.wsbb.org



■ Pictured: Simon Gilby, Chief Executive Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust (CWPT), Leanne Howlett, Founder of By Your Side, Sue Drewitt, Perinatal Service Lead CWPT

Mental health support for new parents

A new forum called 'By Your Side' has been launched, working with the Coventry and Warwickshire Perinatal Mental Health Team. Its aim is to help support families who have accessed the service with emotional difficulties during pregnancy or in the year following the birth of their child.

The team is made up of expert staff from Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust and South Warwickshire Foundation NHS Trust. The forum aims to help support families through a support service provided by others who have

gone through a similar experience and to break down the stigma and barriers that prevent people seeking the help and support they need if they are suffering from mental health problems when they are pregnant or a new parent.

To find out more about **By Your Side**, visit the Facebook page www.fb.com/byyoursideperinatal

Patients at the heart of it

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust has achieved an overall rating of 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The CQC rated the Trust for having well-led, caring, responsive and effective mental health, learning disability and community physical health services, following a recent inspection.

Inspectors also said in their report that staff were 'compassionate, kind, caring, worked hard in their roles and put patients at the heart of the care they deliver'.

Some areas rated outstanding included the use of innovative technology to improve quality and safety for patients in its older adult mental health wards, and in its care in community-based mental health services for older people and community physical health services for children and young people.

Visit www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk for more details.



Stay fit and do your bit

People in Coventry can combine getting fit with doing good deeds, thanks to the new fitness phenomenon, GoodGym.

GoodGym doesn't have treadmills, cross-trainers or weights. Instead, members run around the community to stay fit: but stop off to help people on the way.

Runners can help by doing physical tasks, such as clearing gardens, or carrying out social visits to elderly people who may be lonely or isolated.

The launch in Coventry has been made possible by the support of Coventry City Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

GoodGym will organise a weekly group run, with members stopping off to help community organisations on the way.

Members will also be paired with an isolated older person, and asked to commit to a weekly social visit to chat and carry out helpful tasks. The GoodGym befriending scheme has been proven to reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing.

The funding, from Coventry City Council (£20,000) and the WMCA (£15,000), will help pay for GoodGym's website, a personal trainer to manage the group run, and criminal records checks for members taking part in the befriending scheme.

For details visit: www.goodgym.org/proposals/coventry

European sporting city is shaping up for an eventful year

**WE ARE
COVENTRY
EUROPEAN CITY OF SPORT
2019**

EUROPEAN CITY OF SPORT will be a special year for Coventry and the perfect build up to City of Culture 2021. It will be a great year of celebration, showcasing the best of what the city already does, attracting sporting events to the city, supporting grassroots sports clubs in communities, whilst also ensuring that everyone in Coventry has access to high quality and affordable facilities.



■ Pictured: Cllr Kamran Caan and Cllr Abdul Salam Khan join some of the Positive Youth Team at Edgwick Park

Anyone for cricket?

A new five lane cricket net facility will soon be opening in a city park.

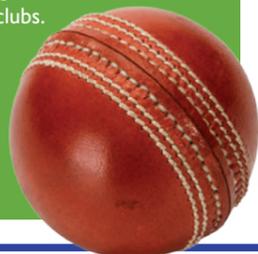
The nets are now taking shape in Edgwick Park as part of a partnership between the Council and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). A grant of over £120,000 from the ECB will also see seven non-turf cricket pitches developed in local parks across the city.

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.

They are linked to the ECB strategy, Cricket Unleashed – and it is hoped they will be enjoyed by families and friends turning up for an informal game as well as clubs who will use them for matches.

Longford Park, Hearsall Common, Stoke Heath, Charterhouse fields, Xcel Leisure Centre, Coundon Hall Park and War Memorial Park will all get non-turf wickets.

The locations were decided following consultation with local cricket clubs.



Birmingham to Coventry cycle event

A major cycling event is to go ahead which will give 3,000 cyclists of all abilities the unique opportunity to ride from Birmingham to Coventry on closed roads on 12 May.

The new 42-mile route forms part of Vélo Birmingham & Midlands ongoing efforts to become one of Europe's biggest and most inclusive cycling events and will play a key role in attracting a wider audience alongside the hugely popular 100 mile event.

Starting in the heart of Birmingham city centre, the 42-mile route will weave its way through the beautiful West Midlands' countryside en route to the heart of Coventry - the European City of Sport 2019 - where riders will cross the finish line in University Square in the shadow of the historic Coventry Cathedral.

The new route represents an exciting addition to what is shaping up to be a fantastic weekend of community activity within Coventry, with the Coventry Food Festival also taking place on the same day.



Once riders cross the finish line, they will be able to re-fuel at the Food Festival and soak up the celebratory atmosphere within the city.

With only 3,000 general entries up for grabs, organisers are anticipating huge demand for entries in the new event. Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader, Coventry City Council said:

“Putting on an extra event from Birmingham to Coventry is a real bonus. Coventry has a lot to boast about and having a major cycling event happening in the city is fantastic.”

To secure your place on the start line, head to velobirmingham.com and enter now.

Pool pledge opening



The new 50 metre swimming pool at the Alan Higgs Centre on Allard Way is set to benefit from a £1.5 million grant from Sport England.

The investment will mean there will be a public swimming pool available in the heart of the community and is a further step in the Council's ambition to ensure local people have easy access to a swimming pool close to where they live.

The grant will contribute towards the £60 million investment the Council has pledged to new sports and leisure facilities in the city, including The Wave waterpark in the city centre.

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, Councillor Kamran Caan, said:

“We are committed to providing quality sports and leisure facilities in the city, which is why we have invested in The Wave and ensured there will still be a 50m pool in the city. Both will open this year – as we celebrate being European City of Sport and both will be great additions to our leisure and sporting facilities.”

Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre is no longer considered fit for purpose and usage has continued to decline as other more modern and accessible leisure facilities, such as Centre AT7 have opened.

A report recommends that Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre closes as the new facilities open and seeks to ensure that the Council does all it can to help groups, and clubs relocate to other facilities where possible, as well as actively looking for alternative uses for the site.

World Cup city will draw the crowds



■ Pictured: Coventry Lady Mayoress, Mrs Lindsey Blundell and Lord Mayor, Cllr John Blundell, Council Leader George Duggins and Cllr Khan with Partners.

The city's Ricoh Arena will be helping to host the biggest event in the international Rugby League calendar.

With the Rugby League World Cup 2021 looking to deliver the biggest, best, most attended and most viewed Rugby League World Cup ever, the international

spotlight will be on Coventry.

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

“This is more great news for the city as we welcome another world sporting event to Coventry.”

Jon Dutton, Chief Executive, RLWC 2021, said:

“We're looking forward to bringing this worldwide tournament to the city at the perfect time alongside the UK City of Culture 2021 programme of events.”

www.rlwc2021.com



Sign up for 5k Fun Run

Hundreds of runners have already signed up to the Fun Run, taking place as part of the Festival of Running on 24 March alongside the Coventry Half Marathon.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, is one of dozens of runners already taking part.

The 5k runners will set off shortly after the Half Marathon gets underway, and will follow a double loop of the city centre before finishing at the Cathedral. Cllr Caan said:

“I'm really excited to be taking part in the GoRun 5k Fun Run. The Festival of Running has something for everyone and is a great way to keep active and stay healthy.”

Festival of Running Organiser Millie Mac (pictured above with Councillor Caan), said:

“We're delighted to have Cllr Caan take part in the GoRun 5k, it's a wonderful example to set as portfolio holder for Public Health and Sport.”

Many of the 5k runners will be taking part in fancy dress; team entries from local businesses and schools will also be taking part.

Entries are still available for the GoRun 5k and the Coventry Half Marathon. Visit enjoycoventry.com/festivalofrunning for details.



ST MARY'S
GUILDHALL



A witness to history

St Mary's Guildhall has graced Coventry since the 14th Century, playing a part in England's amazing history, from hosting Royalty to storing arms for the Civil War and seeing the early performances of a young William Shakespeare.

Built for the great guilds of the time - it has hosted Royalty, some willing and some less so, and served the city in a variety of ways.

St. Mary's Guildhall is one of the finest surviving medieval guildhalls in England, an unexpected treasure in the narrow, winding lanes of Coventry's historic 'Cathedral Quarter', and an oasis of historic charm and tranquillity in the bustling city.

Its rooms offer an insight into Coventry's past, with collections of early arms and armour, furniture and artworks providing a suitable backdrop to the fascinating stories that are told by expert guides. The main attraction is the magnificent Great Hall, with its medieval stained glass, a ceiling of carved angels and, dominating an entire wall, one of the rarest and most important tapestries in the country.

The hall is built on part of the old Coventry Castle site and acted as the centre for Guild business – as a meeting hall and a place for ceremonies and banquets.

One of the Guildhall's most famous 'guests' was Mary Queen of Scots, who was kept there as a prisoner in 1569 and a room is now named after her in Caesar's Tower.

Royal guests who enjoyed happier times in the Guildhall included King James II, who was given a banquet with so much food that his table collapsed, showering the Royal party with 'Corporation Custard', a local delicacy.

Kings Henry V and VI were also entertained at the hall, and King Henry VII hosted the very first feast of the Tudor dynasty at St Mary's.

Back in 1485, the new King Henry stopped in the city just days after defeating Richard III



at the Battle of Bosworth and bringing an end to the Wars of the Roses. His party dined on two oxen, 20 muttuns, seven fish, 42 dozen loaves of bread and gallons of ale and wine.

Other famous names to call in at the Guildhall have included Shakespeare, who is said to have trod the boards, as did the actress Sarah Siddons. And the Great Hall served as inspiration for the 'grand old hall' in George Eliot's novel 'Adam Bede'.

Over the years, the Guildhall has served as a Council House, a theatre, a treasury, courtroom,

an armoury during the English Civil War, and even as a soup kitchen for weavers when the trade collapsed in the 1800s.

Miraculously the Guildhall largely survived the devastation of the Blitz, and continues to serve the city today as a major venue for civic functions, including welcoming VIPs from around the world.

It also hosts weddings and celebrations for the people of Coventry and is still a major part of city life almost 700 years after it was first built.

A colourful history

A colouring book – created by the City of Coventry Freeman's Guild - covers the Guildhall's fascinating history, with a special double pull-out for the Coventry Tapestry.

It costs £5 and is available from the Guildhall, Herbert Museum, Coventry Transport Museum and various heritage sites.

Ideal venue for your big day

From an intimate ceremony to a full wedding day, historic St Mary's Guildhall offers a unique and memorable location for your special occasion, with an atmosphere and quality that has rightly made it one of the region's favourite wedding venues.

Expert staff can help with arranging a wedding ceremony, civil partnership or other formal ceremony.

But the Guildhall is also the perfect setting for so much more. From film locations, fashion shows and exhibitions, to family celebrations, graduation balls and charity dinners, the historic interiors provide a unique backdrop for events to impress and remember.

And if you're organising a business meeting or launch, then why not book one of the many versatile rooms – after all it's been a meetings venue since the 1300s!



Tasty treats in The Undercroft

The Undercroft may have once stored gunpowder and arms for the English Civil War, but it is serving up far safer and tastier treats today.

The vaulted Undercroft lies directly beneath the Great Hall and offers a welcoming and relaxed setting for brunch, light snacks, hearty lunches, or a quick coffee while catching up with friends and emails.

Expect tasty dishes at competitive prices, in unique historic surroundings - your food is even prepared in the same medieval kitchens that have catered for Royalty and civic dignitaries for nearly 700 years (with a few updates over time, of course).

Children can choose from their own Mini Merchants Menu, and special dietary requirements can be catered for, while menus include many vegetarian and vegan options.

Try a Merchant's spiced chicken sandwich, sausage and mash or a Wednesday roast.

Follow it up with bread and butter pudding, or treat yourself to an afternoon tea including a range of delicious, dainty sandwiches, a scrumptious selection of small cakes and scones, and your choice of specialty teas.

See the menus online at www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk

Looking to the future

St Mary's Guildhall has played a big part in our city's history, and it's set to play a big part in its future as well.

As well as welcoming visiting VIPs and hosting civic events, the Guildhall is being made an even bigger tourist attraction to help show our city's heritage and tell our story.

The Council recently outlined plans to turn it into a 'premier heritage, function, events and conferencing venue'.

Works will see the opening up of the medieval kitchen; improved displays of the historic tapestry; a new bar and lounge area; and a new kitchen to cater for guests.

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

"The Guildhall is a real treasure for our city and we are keen for it to play a big part in our year as UK City of Culture and beyond. This scheme would turn it into the major tourist attraction it deserves to be and give everyone the chance to enjoy a beautiful part of our heritage."

If the full scheme is adopted, then the cost will be between £5.5m and £7.5m, with £1.5m already earmarked through government funding. The Council is reviewing the case for investing between £2.5 to £3.5m and seeking funding for the remaining amount. Historic England and other stakeholders are being consulted over the scheme.

The Coventry Tapestry



The 500-year-old 'Coventry Tapestry' dominates the north wall of the Great Hall, and shows the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

More than nine metres wide and three metres high, the tapestry features 75 individual characters and still hangs on the very wall for which it was created.

Opening times

The Guildhall's 2019 visitor season runs from 17 March to 6 October open Sunday to Thursday, from 10am to 4pm.

Schools and groups are welcome to visit outside of the main season by prior arrangement, subject to event bookings and staff availability. You can also check the events page for other opportunities to view the historic interiors. The Undercroft Café is

open from 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. No need to book, but it is advisable to do so if you are a larger lunch party.

*Please note that there are occasional closures of St Mary's Guildhall and the café for civic and private events

CONTACT US

Guildhall
visit www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk
email guildhall@coventry.gov.uk
call 024 7683 3328

Undercroft Café
call 024 7683 3315, or follow on social media at www.facebook.com/undercroftatstmarys and twitter.com/the_undercroft

Parks are all set for spring

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 the session begins. Advance booking and payment is 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.



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
10.30am-12noon
£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.
10.30am – 3pm.
FREE at 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.

MARCH

16 | Great British Spring Clean
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10am – 3pm
Register your interest with the Information Centre
As part of the Keep Britain Tidy 'Big Spring Clean' we are holding a special day for families where, if you can bring us a full bag of rubbish, found within the park, we will give you your car park charges for the day. All equipment is provided, all you need is an eagle eye.

APRIL

6 | Great British Spring Clean
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10am – 3pm
Register your interest with the Information Centre
See March description for further information

6 | Springtime Floral Workshop
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10.15am – 12.15pm
£17.50 per person
Booking essential
Using natural materials have a go at creating your very own spring-themed table decorations for your home. Create your own floral masterpiece using the seasonal flowers and natural materials provided. This is a perfect activity for catching up with friends and family. Limited places are available. Suitable for 15 years and above.

13-23 | Easter Egg Trail
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10am – 3pm
£2 per trial sheet, under ones go FREE if accompanied by a paying sibling. Booking essential.
Please leave at least one hour to do the trail. (Information Centre closes at 4pm). The Easter Bunny has lost the code to the Easter egg safe, can you help him solve the code to get them out. This is a family-friendly self-led trail around the park. Pick up your trail leaflet from the Information Centre to solve the puzzle. A small prize is available for all those who manage to crack the code. Suitable for families.

16 | Get Set for Easter
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
11.15am – 12.15pm
£4.25 booking essential
Have a cracking time and join the team in getting ready for Easter. Make loads of Easter arts and crafts to take home. Suitable for three years and above.

16 | Froggy Antics
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
1pm – 2pm
£4.25 booking essential
Hop hop hop along to the Information Centre. Make loads of frogs in our frog-themed arts and crafts session to take home. Suitable for three years and above.

16 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE no booking required
Longford Park, meet near the play area. Join in the outdoor fun with the Rangers including games and craft activities. These events are open access, all under 8s must be supervised and all over 8s 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 to 12 years.

17 | Top Hat
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
11.15am – 12.15pm
£4.25 booking essential
Come along and make your very own top hat and decorate it ready for the bonnet parade. A small prize for the best in show. Suitable for three years and above.

17 | Easter Chef
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
1pm – 2pm
£5 booking essential
YUM YUM YUM. Join the team in creating your very own sweet goodies to eat or take home. Suitable for three years and above.

17 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm,
FREE, no booking required
Allesley Park, meet near the play area. See 16 April description for further information.

18 | Teddy Tumble
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1.30pm – 3pm
£4.25 booking not essential
Come and paint your very own Teddy Bear Coin Bank and other Teddy Bear Crafts that you can take home. Suitable for children three years and over.

18 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE, no booking required
Caludon Castle Park, meet near the play area. See 16 April description for further information

23 | Great British Spring Clean
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10am – 3pm
Register your interest with the Information Centre
See March description for further information

23 | Dragons Be Here
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
11.15am – 12.15pm
£4.25 booking essential
ROAR! Come and celebrate St George's Day. Be creative and make dragons in our arts and crafts session. Will yours be the scariest? Suitable for three years and above.

23 | Springtime Babies
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
11.15am – 12.15pm
£4.25 booking essential
Come along and make your very own spring time animal baby arts and crafts. Suitable for three years and above.

23 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE no booking required
Edgwick Park, meet near the play area.
See 16 April description for further information.

24 | Butterfly Pots
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
11.15am – 12.15pm
£5 booking essential
Come and have a flutter with the Education Team by painting a flower pot, growing some seeds and other related arts and crafts. Suitable for three years and above.

24 | Crazy Clay
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
1pm – 2pm
£4.25 booking essential
Come and have a messy time making and creating items out of clay to take home. Suitable for three years and above.

24 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE no booking required
Nauls Mill Park, meet near the play area.
See 16 April description for further information.

25 | Toy Time
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1.30pm – 3pm
£4.25 booking not essential.
It's time for some fun! Come and make your own toys that you can take home to play with. Suitable for children three years and over.

25 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE no booking required
Stoke Green Park, meet near the play area.
See 16 April description for further information

26 | Bonkers about Crafts
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1.30pm – 3pm
£4.25 booking not essential.
We are having a spring clean! Come and have some messy fun with our mix and match arts and crafts. Choose a selection from the items available and get crafty! Suitable for children three years and over.

MAY

6 | Dawn Chorus
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
4.30am – 7.30am
£4.25 per person, breakfast charged separately, booking essential
Have you ever walked around Coombe and wondered, what is that bird singing in the trees? Join our very own bird expert on this early morning walk to learn about the birds and their songs found in the park. Why not treat yourself to breakfast afterwards in the Café in the Park. Suitable for three years and above.

28 | Fairies, Pixies & Gnomes
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
11.15am – 12.15pm or
1pm – 2pm
£4.25 per person
booking essential
Come along and make your very own magical friends to take home. Suitable for three years and above.

28 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE no booking required
Longford Park, meet near the play area.
See 16 April description for further information.

29 | Den Building
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
10.30am – 12noon
£4.25 per person
booking essential
Come along and make your very own shelter in the woods by using only the natural materials found within the park. Will you be able to keep dry? Suitable for three years and above.

29 | Hooting Fun
COOMBE COUNTRY PARK
1pm – 2pm
£4.25 per person
booking essential
Join the team. Have a hoot creating and decorating some imaginative owls to decorate your home. Suitable for three years and above.

29 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE, no booking required
Allesley Park, meet near the play area.
See 16 April description for further information.

30 | Rocking Robots
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1.30pm – 3pm
£4.25, booking not essential.
Come and join the Education Team to have some Rocking Robot fun. Create your very own army of robots to take home with you. Suitable for children three years and over.

30 | Fresh Air and Fun RANGERS' ACTIVITIES
1.30pm – 3pm
FREE no booking required
Caludon Castle Park, meet near the play area.
See 16 April description for further information.

31 | Elefun
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1.30pm – 3pm
£4.25 booking not essential.
Come and have some fun making your very own family of elephants. Suitable for children three years and over.

WIZARD OF OZ

Three Spires Guildhall are returning to the Warwick Arts Centre after their 2017 smash hit "Priscilla - Queen of the Desert", followed by "Half a Sixpence" at The Albany Theatre in 2018. They now invite you to get on your red slippers and join them over the rainbow to see their next production "The Wizard of Oz"

Performing from
Wednesday 12 June to Sunday 16 June

Book tickets online from:
warwickartcentre.co.uk

or by phone at the Box Office:
02476 524524

FOSTER FOR COVENTRY

www.coventry.gov.uk/foster

Foster for Coventry
 @Foster4Coventry

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
Tel: 07908 228112 or
024 7683 1039 or e-mail
christine.thomas@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment or advice please contact me.

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

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

I CHEYLESMORE

Cllr Roger Bailey
Tel: 024 7697 1626 (day) or e-mail
roger.bailey@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

Cllr Rois Ali
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Follow me on twitter
@RoisCheylesmore and
facebook Rois4Cheylesmore

Cllr Richard Brown
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richard.brown@coventry.gov.uk

I EARLSDON

Cllr Ken Taylor OBE
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ken.taylor@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

Cllr Kindy Sandhu
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07852 532667 or e-mail
kindy.sandhu@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.



Cllr Allan Andrews
Tel: 024 7697 1621 or e-mail
allan.andrews@coventry.gov.uk
Happy to help where I can, will visit you at home or at the Council House. Please call for appointment. Follow me on twitter @allanandrews

I FOLESHILL

Cllr Tariq Khan
Tel: 024 7683 1039 e-mail
tariq.khan@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

Cllr Abdul Salam Khan
Tel: 024 7697 1620 (day) or
07903 847160 or e-mail
abdul.khan@coventry.gov.uk

Cllr Balvinder Kaur
Tel: 07957 539615 or e-mail
balvinder.kaur@coventry.gov.uk

I HENLEY

Cllr Patricia Seaman
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pat.seaman@coventry.gov.uk

Cllr Kevin Maton
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024 7683 1030 e-mail
kevin.maton@coventry.gov.uk

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

I HOLBROOK

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

Cllr Rachel Lancaster
Tel: 024 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 7697 1619 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 a surgery on 2nd Friday, 10-11am at St Francis of Assisi Church, Links Road.

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
Tel: 024 7683 1039 or e-mail
patricia.hetherton@coventry.gov.uk
For an appointment please contact me.

Cllr Tony Skipper
Tel: 024 7683 1030 or e-mail
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 7697 1621 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
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 Salam Khan, Deputy Leader, Policing and Equalities (Deputy, Cllr Pervez Akhtar)
Cllr John Mutton, Strategic Finance and Resources
Cllr Patricia Seaman, Children and Young People (Deputy, Cllr Tony Skipper)
Cllr Kevin Maton, Education and Skills
Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Jobs and Regeneration (Deputy, Cllr David Welsh)
Cllr Patricia Hetherton, City Services (Deputy, Cllr Ram Lakha)
Cllr Faye Abbott, Adult Services
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Cllr Ed Ruane, Housing and Communities (Deputy, Cllr Balvinder Kaur)

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C = Chair DC = Deputy Chair

COVENTRY MPs

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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

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Bill Etheridge, call 01902 664670
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Jill Seymour call 01952 924040
e-mail enquiries@jillsymourmep.co.uk

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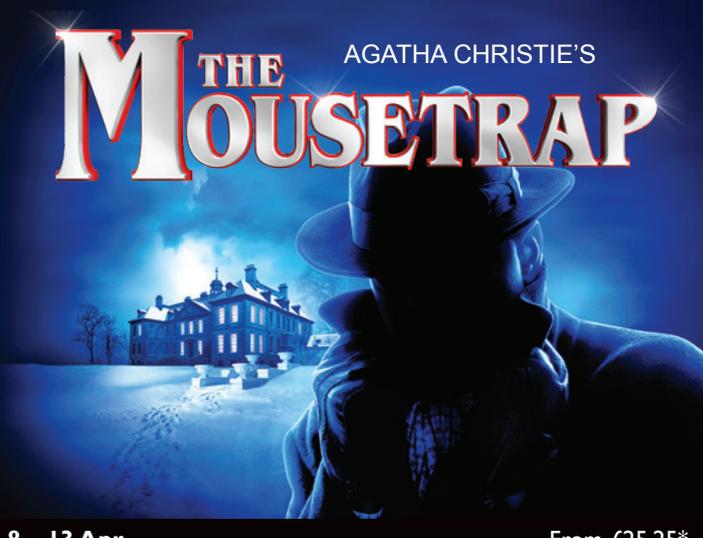


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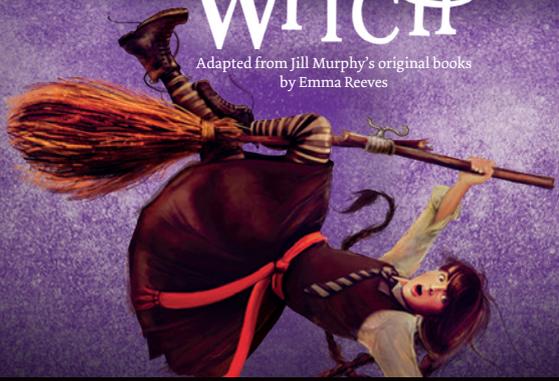
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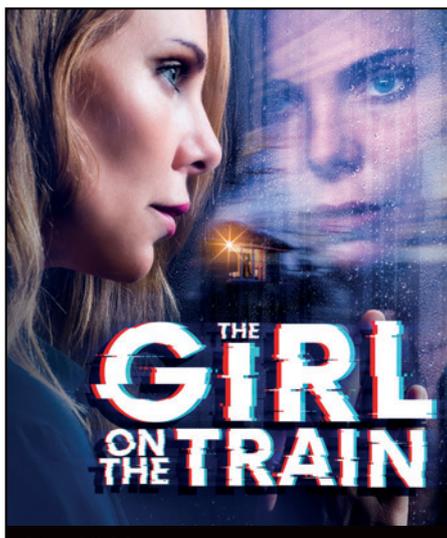
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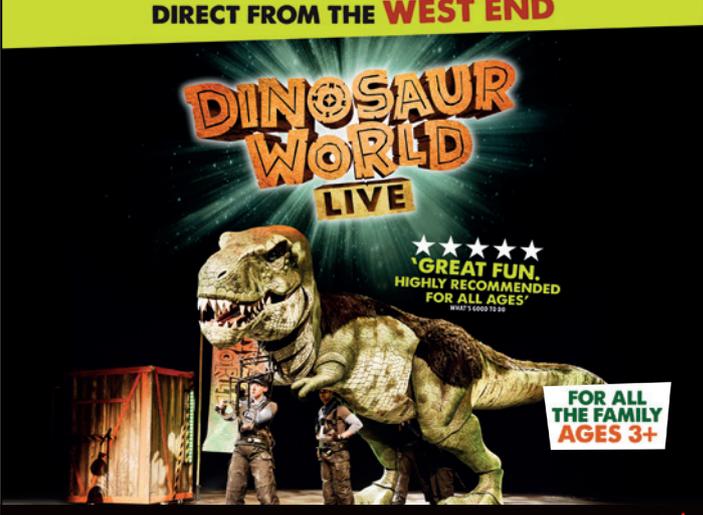
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