

YOUR COVENTRY

News about what's going on in your city ♥ summer edition 2024

Garden waste
bin collection
charge

£40 a year
starting
June 2024

- o Four-page guide to a summer of fun
- o Godiva Festival countdown
- o Kids marvel at reading challenge



LEADER'S MESSAGE

Your update from the
Leader of Coventry City Council

JUNE

A year of opportunities and challenges.

With the new Council municipal year underway, I wanted to tell you more of our plans for the coming 12 months.

Everyone has been hit by national issues such as the cost-of-living crisis and inflation, and the Council is not immune, with 75% of our budget being spent on social care and housing and homelessness.

We deliver more than 600 services yet receive one of the lowest funding levels per head of population in the country.

It is why we continue to fight for fairer funding for all.

Despite these challenges, the Council remains committed to supporting

those most in need, while providing opportunities for everyone.

Economic growth and prosperity is at the heart of that, and it is why we have created Greenpower Park.

Based at Coventry Airport and with the West Midlands Gigafactory at its heart, it is a game-changer. It will bring in £2.5bn of investment and create 6,000 highly skilled jobs.

To further our employment goals, we also have our brilliant Job Shop, which is now at a new central location at West Orchards Shopping Centre, where it will continue to build on its incredible success of the past 10 years of helping around 60,000 residents.

We know bins and roads are important to you, and that is why we are transforming the bin service, and investing almost £20m in improving roads and pavements. We are also continuing to roll-out our highly successful and popular average speed cameras programme.

We will increase work to combat fly-tipping; provide more green spaces; continue to stage amazing events like the Godiva Festival; and deliver more affordable housing.

Doing all this is not going to be easy, but I make no apologies for being ambitious in delivering the best we can for our city.



Investing in roads and pavements

The Council is set to invest almost £20m in improving roads and pavements this year and next.

The plans cover more than 160 projects that include repairing and maintaining the city's roads and pavements, improving flood protection, and investing in road safety schemes to help reduce road collisions.

The money will be used to improve the worst affected roads and pavements, including repairing potholes and ensuring that drivers and pedestrians can use routes safely.

The plan is to carry out work to repair the worst affected roads first while at the same time investing in measures including the repair of kerb lines, junction improvements and installing bollards and lay-bys, all measures that will help to extend the life of road repairs.

This work will help to ensure the city's road network is ready to support a wide range of pioneering projects including Coventry Very Light Rail, becoming the first all electric bus city and more fully segregated cycleways to support active travel, as well as tackling the causes of climate change whilst promoting growth and investment across the city.

It will also improve the quality of pavements across the city.



As part of the City Centre South developments, the Job Shop has now relocated to a new unit in West Orchards Shopping Centre.

The move has been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in agreement with the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The new shop boasts a new customer sign-in system which can be used in 10 different languages, a large street facing shop window and a total of 19 screens displaying content such as job opportunities, events, and partner or business recruitment activity.

Local businesses can now work in partnership with the Employer Engagement Team to train and recruit Coventry residents and advertise their vacancies.

To date, over 60,000 people have registered with the Job Shop, whilst over 15,000 residents have been supported into local employment.

New city centre ShopMobility venue

A new ShopMobility facility is now open on Greyfriars Lane, after it was relocated from the Barracks car park.



The service hires mobility equipment to the public, including manual wheelchairs, and mobility scooters, so that people with restricted mobility can enjoy independence outdoors. The hire services are low cost or sometimes free for people of all ages.

It's part of the wider Coventry City Centre South project and represents a significant improvement for its users and the community.

Barbara Gibbs, a regular user of ShopMobility, said: "This centre and new shop provides an excellent and essential service to people like me."

The new service also includes Changing Places toilet facilities, ensuring people with severe disabilities and their families or carers don't have to worry when they go out shopping, plan a day out or travel.

Work underway to regenerate Palmer Lane

Work has begun to uncover and regenerate the River Sherbourne as part of a new scheme on Palmer Lane.

The site is the only part of the city where the river is visible, and the plans will see a new public space created here.

Work includes the demolition of the culvert - a large concrete slab, which sits over the river.

The scheme will cost £2.4m and will renovate the area to create a new public space, with steps down to the river, green landscaping, and improvements to biodiversity and new planting.



The Palmer Lane project is a joint partnership between Coventry City Council, Historic Coventry Trust, Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency.

The Palmer Lane regeneration project is due to finish by the end of 2024.

Bring your ID

A general election is happening on 4 July.

If you're intending to vote at a polling station that day, then you will need to bring a form of photographic ID. This can be something like a driving licence or a passport. You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you don't have ID.

To see the full list of accepted ID or apply for a VAC, please visit coventry.gov.uk/elections

YOUR GUIDE TO THE CITY THIS SUMMER

From playful days to summer nights there is a range of Council led events and things for all ages to enjoy, from tots to teenagers and from serene stops to lively jaunts. From Lunt Roman Fort to Coombe Abbey Park and FarGo Village to Coventry Transport Museum, here's a taster of where to go and what to do.

Family Museum Engineers Play Day

Saturday 6 July and 7 September
Coventry Transport Museum

FREE with admission
Family Museum Engineers are play sessions designed for the whole family, providing opportunities to explore an open-ended play environment using unique resources that encourage engineering skills, problem-solving, imagination and, of course, quality family fun!



Lunt Roman Festival

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August
Lunt Roman Fort. From £3

Head to Lunt Roman Fort for the most spectacular event of the year, when the fort truly comes to life! Marvel at displays from living history re-enactment groups, take to the field as part of the interactive Battle Drill, or explore the Roman village.



FarGo Village Summer Makers Market

Saturday 20 July and Sunday 21 July
FarGo Village. FREE

Join FarGo Village for an entire weekend brimming with the best independent makers, artists, and designers, all locally talented. There will be handcrafted treasures, from lush botanical delights to captivating prints, beautiful ceramics to statement jewellery, and delightful homeware to tempting treats.



HandleBards Presents a Comedy of Errors

Tuesday 27 July
Coventry Cathedral

Join the troupe at Coventry Cathedral for a bicycle-powered production of Shakespeare's 'The Comedy of Errors' like you've never seen before.

coventrycathedral.org.uk

Dinosaur World Live

Friday 30 August and
Sunday 1 September
The Albany Theatre

From £17.50, grab your compass and discover a pre-historic world of astonishing (and remarkably life-like) dinosaurs.

albanytheatre.co.uk

Doze Under Dippy

Saturday 17 August
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
£50

Stay overnight in the museum, snoozing under the feet of a 26-metre Diplodocus! For children aged 6-11 and their grown-ups.

dippyincoventry.co.uk

Street trees

A thousand semi mature trees were planted by the Council last winter and we will be busy watering them throughout the coming summer.

The planting is thanks to funding from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund and we will be bidding for more funding this year.



We've mainly planted across parks sites. Street trees have also been put in as replacement trees or sponsored trees. This planting is part of the Council's efforts to increase the tree canopy cover of Coventry.



Warm welcome to a greener city

A giant mural titled 'Our Imagined Future' in Coventry's FarGo Village, illustrating what children across the country imagine a greener city could look like, has been completed.

The mural was commissioned to celebrate E.ON's 15-year strategic energy partnership with Coventry City Council to transform the city's approach to carbon reduction.

It was inspired following E.ON's research with 2,000 children from across the UK.

Almost half (44%) said there should be more sustainable travel options in the future.

The 32ft mural took over 40 hours to complete. It was finished by pupils aged 9-12 from local schools.

The mural is designed by both artist Ben Barter and muralist Katie O'Sullivan. Ben said: "My personal favourite is the robots picking up litter and the animals living alongside us in an ecologically diverse environment. As a Coventry local myself, I am excited to see this all come to life."



Digital recycling scheme to expand

The Council has secured £80,000 to help expand its pioneering digital recycling scheme, the #CovConnects Device Bank.

The Time after Time fund was created and distributed by Hubbub and Virgin Media O2 and looks to fund projects that help to close the digital divide while reducing electronic waste.

The #CovConnects Device Bank launched last year and aims to give community organisations and

charities digital devices, which can be distributed to communities and residents.

It also received further investment from the WMCA Connected Services programme.

Over the past year, around 2,500 devices have been provided to organisations across the city. Thanks to this funding, it's now taking donations from partners including the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.

coventry.gov.uk/cov-connects



Improved cycleway to access University

Work is underway to connect with the segregated cycleway on Charter Avenue to University of Warwick between the A45 and Sir Henry Parkes Road.

The next part will be building the cycleway infrastructure on Lynchgate Road, improving access to the University of Warwick campus.

It will connect on to an existing cycle track along Charter Avenue.

The cycleway is due to be finished this summer.

what's on

PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

There are more than 50 parks and open spaces across the city. Including Lake View Park to the west and Caludon Park to the east.

With all sorts of locations in neighbourhoods across the city, an increasing number of people are using parks and green spaces and we're promoting ways to be active in parks.

Go Parks includes an active schools challenge and is bringing everything from sport and physical activity to wellbeing and cultural elements into your local park. It runs until Sunday 7 July. Residents must have a Go CV account to take part.



Golden Putter at the Memorial Park

The 36 hole mini-golf course in the War Memorial Park, will be back and open weekends and throughout the summer holidays.

Also, returning is the popular land train offering short trips for children and adults.

The portable temporary venue, called Golden Putter, was erected in the park last year.

It's an accessible course and the water features and natural planting all help with the way it looks.

The new land train is also being added to the park's attractions just for the summer holidays. The War Memorial Express Land Train offers people a whistle-stop tour of the park.

For more details visit coventry.gov.uk/wmp



Coombe Abbey Park

There's loads to do in the stunning backdrop of 500 acres of lush parkland, exquisite landscaped gardens, and enchanting woodland where there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Adventure Cinema is coming to Coombe from 12-14 July, showing The Greatest Showman, Dirty Dancing and Pretty Woman.

Artisan markets are also being held at Coombe Abbey on 14 July, 11 August and 8 September. Situated near the visitor centre near the main car park entrance it's an ideal space to pick up a snack.

Barkers Funfair can also be enjoyed at Coombe from 8-18 August. For details about the Park visit coventry.gov.uk/coombe

No BBQs reminder

Ahead of the busy summer period Coombe Abbey Park visitors are reminded that the venue does not permit BBQs, camping stoves or open fires at Coombe Abbey Park.



Please be respectful of our parks and green spaces, clean and tidy up after yourselves so that others can enjoy the park.

Bands in the PARK 2024

www.coventry.gov.uk/bandsinparks

FREE EVENTS



Photo: Glodhi Miessi



Photo: Lee Baxter

IMAGINEER

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2024

imagineer-productions.co.uk

Imagineer Productions presents Streets of Cov '24

Supported by the Heart of England Foundation In partnership with Coventry City Council

Get ready for six weekends of exhilarating free pop-up performances from top national and international outdoor arts companies!

Imagineer Productions, a powerhouse in the UK's outdoor creative scene, is back on Coventry's streets with a line-up of sensational outdoor performances. Brace yourself for breathtaking dance, captivating storytelling and mesmerising visual spectacles that will dazzle you throughout the late summer.

The 2024 programme is set to be a highlight of the organisation's ongoing mission to engage the local community and position Coventry as the beating heart of the UK outdoor arts landscape.

Each weekend will feature several performances showcasing different companies in various locations around the city.

All performances are FREE to attend and no booking is required.

GODIVA FESTIVAL | 5 - 7 JULY 2024

We're counting down the days until Godiva Festival

The countdown is on as this year's Godiva Festival is set to take place from Friday 5 - Sunday 7 July. The event promises three days of unrivalled music, entertainment and family-friendly fun in the War Memorial Park.

2024's line-up features the former frontman of The Verve, Richard Ashcroft, taking the Friday night headline slot, whilst pop phenomenon, Paloma Faith, headlines on Saturday and legendary Beverley Knight will close the festival on Sunday.

Other Main Stage artists include Eurovision's Sam Ryder and Love Island star-turned-musician, Wes Nelson, along with loads of fantastic family acts.

Sunday is a dedicated family day at the festival where Bluey and Bingo will be meeting and greeting those on the Family Field throughout the day! BBC's Dr Ranj's Teddy Bear Hospital will be headlining the Serendipity Stage and there will be plenty more family-friendly performers to enjoy and free activities to take part in, including learning circus skills, watching dance troupes, getting creative with arts and crafts and taking part in sport and games.



Make sure to buy tickets in advance before prices increase on the weekend of the festival! Tickets start at £15 for a standard day or a whole family can enjoy the festival from £48. godivafestival.com



Find out more about your local library this summer

Don't forget to check out your local library this summer. Along with Central Library there are 15 libraries located across the city. If you haven't been for a while, then why not give them a try.

There are loads of activities to do for all the family throughout the year and during the summer holidays.

Rhymetime is a regular part of fun activities in all libraries, along with storytime and craft sessions.

You can also find out lots more about your local libraries at the Godiva Festival on 6 and 7 July in the family field.

Local libraries include: Alder Moor, Allesley Park, Bell Green, Caludon, Canley, Central, Cheylesmore, Coundon, Earlsdon, Foleshill, Holbrooks, Jubilee Crescent, Stoke, Tile Hill, Willenhall.



For details of everything that's on visit coventry.gov.uk/libraryevents

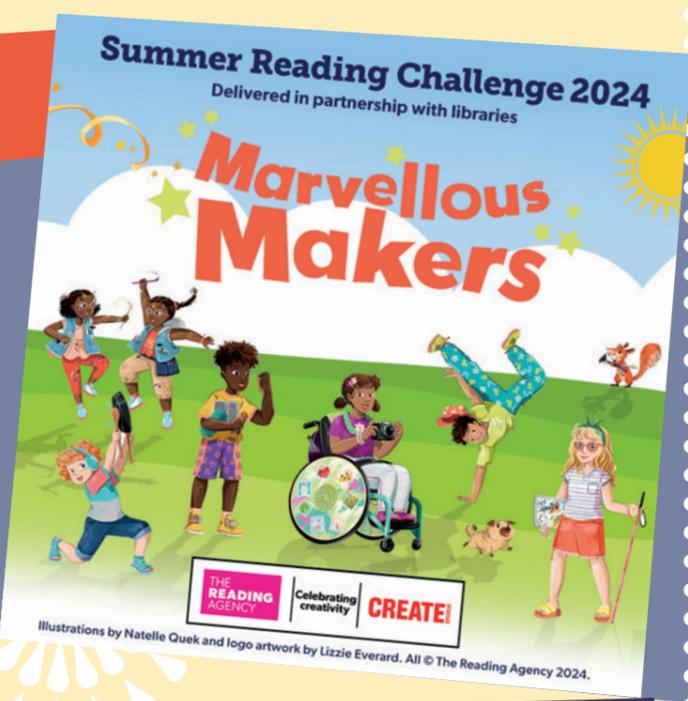
Summer Reading Challenge

The Library Summer Reading Challenge is a FREE holiday activity for children.

It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence. Children can read anything they like and collect free rewards for their reading, including a medal and certificate if they complete the Challenge.

The Challenge starts on Saturday 6 July and is aimed at children 11 and under. Just pop into your local library to sign up!

Children will be able to find new reads linked to their favourite creative arts, and access free activities at the library. We can't wait to get creative!



Sports Fest returns to Broadgate

The free, six-day event will be back in Broadgate from Tuesday 6 August.

Sports Fest will be back for its 12th year, offering a wide range of sports and wellbeing activities.

Thousands join the fun every year and visit the clubs, charities and sports organisations delivering activities that are suitable for all ages and abilities.

This year's event will also showcase a selection of specific sports in celebration of the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics.

You can visit the FREE event every day from Tuesday 6 August - Sunday 11 August, 10am-4pm.



Organisations join to create Safe Spaces

The Council, in collaboration with West Midlands Police, has launched a Safe Spaces project, for children and young people.

The Safe Spaces project is creating safe havens throughout the city, in partnership with various venues including Family Hubs, The Wave and St. Peter's. Other venues which have also shown an interest in becoming a Safe Space



include libraries, CV Life venues, McDonald's restaurants, Coventry University, and youth organisations.

Safety particularly when walking and travelling in the city centre were highlighted as a concern by young people. Staff at the venues are being trained to ensure they adhere to safety standards. Safe Spaces will have powerbanks, phone chargers and first-aid kits.



Home is where the heart is

Councils across England, including Coventry, say that children in care, should be placed as close to their existing family networks and support systems as is possible and appropriate.

Children placed in private care homes can cost up to a staggering £10,000 a week. Some children in care require specialist facilities, but the Council acknowledges too many children are living far away, due to a lack of suitable homes in the Midlands. To find out about fostering call 024 7683 2828 or visit coventry.gov.uk/fostering

A family that has come together as part of a Council adult social care scheme recently joined thousand of Sky Blues fans for the FA Cup outing against Man Utd.

Rob, Bernie, Stephen, and Kerry are part of the Coventry Shared Lives Scheme. It enables adults to live together in a family home where care and support is provided in a loving environment. Stephen and Kerry live with Bernie and Rob and have developed a caring

relationship for several years. All four were at Wembley to cheer on Coventry City. Stephen has only been a regular at City games for the past two years. Rob said it has made a massive difference. Rob added: "Going with Stephen has been great. It is



We're a great team

Photo L-R: Liane (shared lives officer), Stephen, Bernie, Kerry and Rob

such a perfect way for him to connect with more people."

Bernie told us how important the Shared Lives scheme is. She said:

"You can make a difference that can change lives by giving people meaningful opportunities. Kerry calls us a good team."

Coventry Shared lives supports more than 50 households. For details of Coventry shared lives, visit: Coventry.gov.uk/sharedlives or call: 024 7678 5339 or e-mail: sharedlivescheme@coventry.gov.uk

More help with the cost of living

An extension to the Household Support Fund, to cover from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024, was announced earlier in the year.

It is designed to be used to support households most in need due to financial hardship, particularly those who may not qualify for other types of government support. Applications are open until 30 September 2024.

For details, visit coventry.gov.uk/householdsupportfund or call 08085 834 333



Finding comfort at caring centre

A Dementia Hub that was opened 12 months ago is helping hundreds of people living with dementia and their carers' and families.

The Coventry Dementia Partnership Hub, based in Holbrooks, offers care and activities for people in a safe and secure venue.

David Jayes, from Tile Hill, visits the Hub regularly. David's partner had dementia and has sadly passed away, but he said that since then being involved in the Hub has given him a new lease of life.

He said: "I lost my partner, Mel to dementia and since coming here I've found a purpose in life.

"As a family we decided to donate to the Hub project in her memory. That's how important it is to us."

It has recently started a gardening project. It includes planting vegetables to use in the venue's Forget-Me-Not Café.

For details visit coventry.gov.uk/dementiapartnershiphub, call the Hub on **07957 429324** or visit us at **Everdon Road, Holbrooks, Coventry CV6 4FB**

Armed Forces Day

Coventry is marking the annual Armed Forces Day with a free event in the city centre on Saturday 28 June.

Starting with a service in Holy Trinity Church at 10.30am, a parade involving serving and retired military personnel led by the Standard Triumph Pipe Band, comes into Broadgate around 11.30am.

The day provides the opportunity to show our support to the men and women who make up our Armed Forces community, whether they are current serving personnel, families, veterans or cadets.



New Extra Care affordable rent homes at Butts Park Arena

The Butts Park Arena, the home of Coventry Rugby Club for the past 20 years, has already established a place in the heart of the community.

Now the Club is expanding its warm welcome by developing extra care affordable rental homes, where you can live independently and access your current care and support whilst also being part of a vibrant local retirement community.

The development will include 90 new later living apartments for those over 55 and available to anyone paying for their own eligible care and support.

It will be part of a wider development including a new community health and well-being hub, with a health diagnostics centre, gym, toning suite, bistro, communal lounge, kitchen, and flexible open multi-use space for communal activities.

It's ideal for anyone who: would like to live in a retirement community; downsize to an easily managed home; or live in a place with their own front door.

Benefits will include: *high-quality and energy efficient homes: large single bedroom apartments with over 54 square metres; two-bedroom apartments over 64 square metres; all with assistive technology.*

Homes will be let on affordable rents. All new residents will be welcomed into the Butts Park Arena family with access to community programmes and matchday events.

We'd love to hear from you.

Please register your interest at residential@coventryrugby.co.uk



Typical Bistro on the ground floor (artistic impression on quality)



Typical living arrangement (artistic impression on quality)

You don't have to love rugby to want to live here!

Contact details for your local councillor, wherever you live in the city.

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Garden waste bin collection charge

£40 a year
starting
June 2024



To apply for your permit

- › pay **online** at www.coventry.gov.uk/gardenwaste
- › over the **phone** on **080 8583 4333** or
- › pay by **cash/cheque** or **card** at the **Customer Service Centre** in Upper Precinct

If you have any comments contact the Your Coventry newsdesk at communications@coventry.gov.uk All details correct at time of print (3 June 2024).