



Heritage Open Day Grants

Key information for
applicants



Coventry City Council

coventry.gov.uk

TOTAL FUND**£4,000****GRANT SIZE****£250 – £1,000 per project****APPLICATIONS OPEN****16 – 31 July 2026****DECISIONS ANNOUNCED****Early August 2026****EVENTS TAKE PLACE****11 – 20 September 2026****THEME****Everyday Histories**

Overview

Coventry City Council is offering small grants to support activity as part of Heritage Open Days 2026, England's largest festival of history and culture.

We're inviting applications for creative, inclusive, and community-led events that bring Coventry's heritage to life.

Theme: Everyday Histories

This year's national theme celebrates the everyday people, places and experiences that have shaped Coventry's history; the routines, skills, traditions and communities that have contributed to the city's rich heritage, and the stories that are often overlooked.

The theme is intentionally broad. Projects could explore:

- The daily routines and experiences of different jobs and occupations
- The skills, crafts and knowledge passed down through generations
- Music, arts and cultural heritage
- The people behind the work, and the contributions they made to their communities
- The buildings, workplaces and environments where everyday life unfolded
- Local traditions, customs and cultural practices that continue to shape Coventry today

Need inspiration? Here are some ideas to get you started:

Guided tours and heritage walks

Oral history and memory-sharing sessions

Live music celebrating Coventry's heritage

Theatre, spoken word and storytelling

Community art installations and exhibitions

Hands-on workshops and demonstrations

Food demonstrations and tastings

Talks, panel discussions and lectures

What We're Looking For

Every project must:

- ✓ **Take place in** Coventry
- ✓ **Be delivered between** 11–20 September 2026
- ✓ **Be free and open to the public**
- ✓ **Respond to the theme** Everyday Histories

And meet at least one of these priorities:

- ✓ **Collaboration or co-creation** — working with artists, community groups, or partners
- ✓ **Diversity and inclusion** — amplifying underrepresented voices
- ✓ **Engaging young people (aged 12–25)** as participants, audiences, or co-creators
- ✓ **Engaging young adults (aged 26–30)** as participants, audiences, or co-creators
- ✓ **Underused or non-traditional spaces** — community venues or outdoor locations

Who Can Apply

We welcome applications from:

- Individuals
- Artists and creatives
- Freelancers
- Community and voluntary organisations
- Faith groups
- Arts and cultural organisations
- Registered charities

How to Apply

Complete the short application form, telling us about:

- A short description of your idea
- How your project responds to the theme
- Proposed venue and dates
- Target audience
- Funding amount requested and a breakdown of costs

Return your completed form to CultureSportsandEvents@coventry.gov.uk before the deadline. Successful applicants will be asked to enter into a simple grant agreement before funds are released.

If your application is successful, you'll need to upload your event to the Heritage Open Days website by 13 August 2026, so it appears in the national events listing.

Before you apply: practical requirements

You'll need Public Liability Insurance and a completed risk assessment in place before signing a grant agreement. If you're not sure where to start, we're happy to guide you through both do get in touch.

All applicants will be asked to provide proof of identity and financial legitimacy as part of the application process. This is typically two months of recent bank statements (personal or organisational, as applicable). We're happy to advise on this if you have questions.

Evaluation

Funded projects will be asked to collect some basic information to help us understand the impact of the programme, including:

- Number of attendees
- Audience demographics
- Feedback on the experience

We'll also offer optional opportunities to share wider reflections on how your project went.

Support

If you would like to discuss your idea or need support with your application, please contact:

CultureSportsandEvents@coventry.gov.uk

Key Dates

	16 July 2026	Applications open
	31 July 2026	Application deadline
	Early August 2026	Decisions announced
	13 August 2026	Successful applicants upload their event to the Heritage Open Days website
	11–20 Sept 2026	Heritage Open Days events take place