

Coventry

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

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citivision



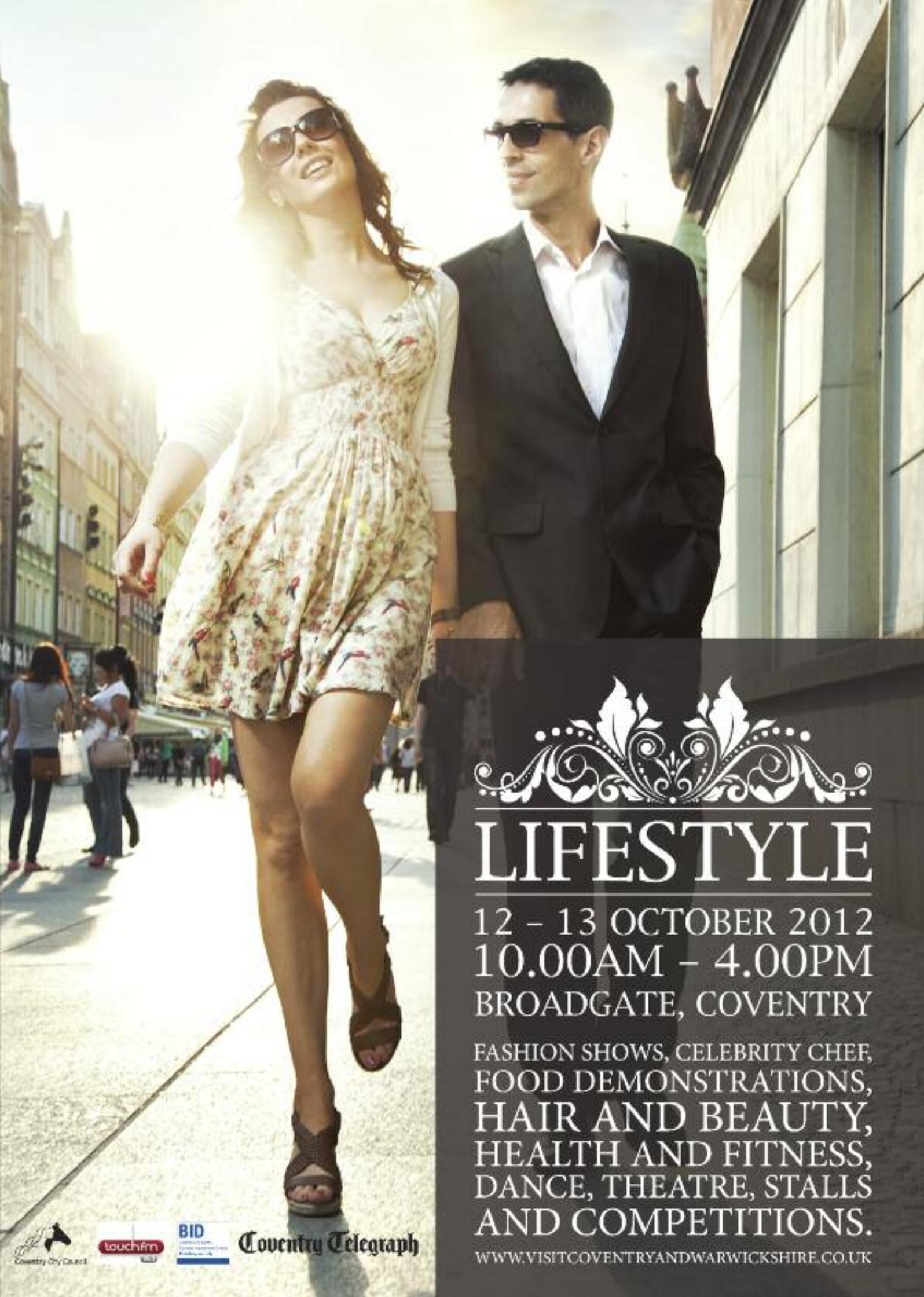
Plus: Your 12-page 2012 Olympic Games special

There was high praise for Coventry's army of Ambassadors who welcomed visitors from around the world to the city for an...

amazing summer

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





LIFESTYLE

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Coventry Telegraph



● A personal message from Cllr John Mutton, Leader, Coventry City Council.

Wow, what a summer that was!

It's pretty well known that I'll never miss an opportunity to shout up for Coventry and tell anyone who'll listen what a great city this is.

And over the past couple of months thousands of people have joined me in telling the world that Coventry is a pretty special place.

Those people included our brilliant Coventry Ambassadors – hundreds of folk who gave their time freely and with pride to welcome visitors to Olympics football at the City of Coventry Stadium.

I've lost count of the number of people who've told me what a difference they made to their Olympics experience.

Visitors to the city from across the world have been singing our praises, too. I've met families who came here for the Olympics and are now planning to return here for a holiday, because they were so impressed by what the city has to offer.

And the thousands of Olympics officials who came here, for our brilliant Torch Relay first and then for the football, have also told us what a great welcome the city put on.

I've never been more proud of Coventry than this summer. Thanks to everyone who played their part; I hope you all enjoy the special supplement in this issue of *Citivism* that captures some of our best Olympics moments.

*You can write to John at The Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RR, or e-mail him at john.mutton@coventry.gov.uk

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

Tel: 024 7683 1081

Fax: 024 7683 1132

e-mail: communications@coventry.gov.uk

Cover story: Coventry Ambassadors meeting and greeting visitors at Coventry railway station.
Full story – Olympic Games special supplement.

A personal message from Dave Walton, chair of the Coventry Partnership...

Citivism includes a great range of articles from organisations across the city that make up the Coventry Partnership. The partnership includes the public, private, community and voluntary sectors and it's been wonderful to see agencies across Coventry come together over the summer to support the co-hosting of The Olympics. As we move into a new season, my hope and expectation as chair of the

Coventry Partnership is for a legacy of greater partnership working from all the exciting work and projects the Olympics has inspired across the city. You can see the results of some of this partnership working with the stories submitted for the latest news bulletin on the Coventry Partnership website at www.coventrypartnership.com/latestpartnershipactivity.



* Dave Walton is acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer/Director with responsibility for the Technical and Operational Support sections within West Midlands Fire Service.



news

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contact us

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

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Skateboarders had a field day when Broadgate was transformed into an open-air roller rink.

city centre focus

12 After a great summer most people will have enjoyed some of the many fantastic events in the new look city centre, but turn the clock back 18 months and parts of the city centre looked a lot different.



Around 100 children competed in a football tournament at Longford Park.

Public consultation planned over Council Tax benefit proposals

Council Tax benefit is being replaced with a local scheme from April 2013. Coventry City Council is proposing – subject to consultation – to maintain current levels of

benefit, finding the money from elsewhere in the budget. Pensioners will be protected in the new scheme. Now residents' views are needed on plans for the new scheme, with

consultation running until October 15. To see the proposed scheme, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/localcounciltaxsupportsurvey

Point of order! Here's your chance to get involved in the civic life of your city

People across the city will be encouraged to take a more active role in civic life as part of Local Democracy Week from October 15-19.



■ Lord Mayor for a Day: Students taking part in a previous Local Democracy Week.

Activities will encourage people to take up their right to vote, get involved in local government and have a say in their Council.

Fifteen schools in Coventry will be competing in a Year 12 debating competition on October 17. Last year Barr's Hill School won and their prize included a group visit to Parliament to see Prime Minister's Questions.

Other events during Local Democracy Week include Lord Mayor for a Day, when pupils from local primary schools help take on the civic duties for the day.

Groups of young people will be running their own 'Virtual Council' and people will also be reminded about the importance of registering to vote.

■ How are we doing?
– See pages 20-21

City parks and gardens strike...

GOLD!



■ Cllr Lynnette Kelly and Ashley Light, chair of the Business Improvement District, at Greysfriars Green with the latest gold award.

Starting Secondary School in September 2013?

If your name's not down, you won't get in!



Parents have to apply for their children's place to the City Council between September 1 and October 31 2012.

If you need support in making this decision, contact Coventry's Choice Adviser, who offers FREE, independent and transparent advice about schools and the application process

Contact Chris Firth on 024 7633 3792 or e-mail chris.firth@coventry.gov.uk



www.coventry.gov.uk

Coventry has landed the gold award in the large city category of this year's Heart of England in Bloom competition, making it a total of seven golds since 2005.

Greysfriars Green, a green thoroughfare leading visitors from Coventry railway station to the city centre, is thought to have played a major part in the city's success in this year's event.

Other green features around the city to impress the judges are the Lady Herbert's Garden, the War Memorial Park and Allesley Park, alongside community projects such as the Friends of Canley Green's wildflower meadow.

A combined effort from Council staff and the Landscape Group made the city's parks, greens and floral displays across the town centre and beyond a colourful and welcoming sight for both residents and visitors over the summer months.

Cllr Lynnette Kelly, City Development Cabinet member, said: "I am very pleased that the city has won Gold – it follows on the winning habit of the athletes in the Olympics and Paralympic Games. This award is testament to the enormous work and effort of our staff alongside the gardeners from the Landscape Group, and everybody that has supported us."

Top marks for outdoor schooling at Coombe

Coombe Country Park has been given another seal of approval, this time by The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom - the national voice for outdoor learning. The park had to go through a rigorous assessment procedure to be awarded The LOfC Quality Badge, which means the park's education service offers an extremely safe and high-quality educational package tailored to meet the needs of individual schools. Using the park as an educational venue gives students the opportunity to take part in wider experiences which directly benefit their educational. For more information on the education team at Coombe Country Park, call Murray Hayden or Joanne Woore on 024 7645 3720.



■ Trainee teachers get an insight into outdoor teaching methods at Coombe Country Park.

Flags out for prize city parks

Coombe Country Park, Longford Park, Allesley Park and Caludon Castle Park have all been awarded a Green Flag for excellence.

The Green Flag Award scheme provides the standard against which parks are measured. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards, setting a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas. Coventry's success is being put down to a

successful partnership at all four parks between resident groups, elected members, parks services and Coventry Streetpride - the Council's single grounds maintenance and street cleansing service.

Cllr Lindsley Harvard, Cabinet member for City Services, said: "We work hard to maintain our parks and green spaces and keep them clean, litter and graffiti free so everyone can enjoy them."

Cllr Phil Townshend, who is responsible for city parks, added: "I know there has been a lot of support from ward councillors who, working in partnership with local people, are vital elements for any Green Flag application to succeed."

Coombe Country Park has now been awarded the Green Flag for the sixth time.

For more information about the awards, visit www.greenflagaward.org

Meals taster for starters

Every new primary school starter has been getting the chance to try school meals free of charge for a week.

The offer is an initiative by Coventry City Council's Schools Catering Service and the NHS Coventry Public Health Healthy Weight team.

The 'munch time' menu has been taste-tested by groups of primary schoolchildren and has been developed in accordance with the Government's nutritional standards so that parents can be sure that their child is eating a healthy, balanced meal.

To find out more about school meals, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolmeals

Students celebrate best-yet exam results

School and college students have been reflecting on a highly productive year, with the best overall A level and GCSE results since records began.

Almost 98 per cent of A level entries achieved an overall pass, with 41 per cent of these being at the higher grades of A*-B. The improvement in the higher grades was better than the national trend, which remained static. AS pass rates for Coventry 17 year olds were slightly improved to 85 per cent, despite a drop in the number of entries this year.

Eighty seven per cent of Coventry 16 year olds obtained at least five good GCSE passes, including 59 per cent who

gained at least five good passes including English and Maths. This is an incredible improvement of 4.3 percentage points since last year, and a 20 per cent increase over the last five years.

Nationally, English results have declined but in Coventry they have increased by 1.4 per cent to 67.6 per cent, and in Maths there has been an incredible increase of 6.7 per cent to 68.6 per cent attaining a C grade and above.

A growing number of students, a 20 per cent increase on last year, studied for vocational courses such as BTEC and OCR nationals, and results for these courses continue to improve, with a pass rate of 98 per cent.

Yoga in the park

People who want to stretch out and relax after a busy week can join in at yoga sessions being held every Sunday at 11am in the new Beech Tree café centre in the War Memorial Park.

The sessions are designed for any age group. Yoga provides a combination of physical and mental therapies that people can apply in their daily lives.

Christmas sparkle

Coventry city centre's annual Christmas lights switch-on is being planned for Sunday, November 18.

The event is a key date in the calendar for city-centre retailers. In the weeks following the switch-on, a range of entertainment is being planned. Look out for more details coming soon.

Perceptions change about volunteering

Young volunteers from Coventry's Positive Youth Foundation joined Coventry Ambassadors to be part of London 2012 in Coventry.

If you asked them before the Olympics, most would have said that they felt disconnected from the Games. But that soon changed as they volunteered for many hours every week working with younger people in the community and also attending training provided through Sports Makers and Coventry Ambassadors. Krishan Singh, education co-ordinator at the Positive Youth Foundation, said: "Although the Olympic and Paralympic Games are now over, the young people have all expressed a desire to continue with volunteering within their communities, as they have seen first hand the difference they are making."

Henley milestone

Former Prince's Trust students at Coventry's Henley College are being invited to help mark a milestone in the centre's 16 years of support for the scheme.

The college will be supervising its 100th Prince's Trust team on October 1, and is looking for any past students to get in touch and tell them what they are doing now.

Were you one of the first Prince's Trust students, or do you know someone who was? If so, contact the Prince's Trust team by emailing princestrust@henley-cov.ac.uk or calling 07854 864791

For more information on the course in October, visit www.henley-cov.ac.uk



Thrills and spills for skate surfers

Dozens of BMXers, bladers and skateboarders have been on a roll enjoying a temporary skate park under the shadows of the Whittle Arch in Millennium Place. The Coventry Summer Jam was funded by the Council and was the idea of young people who wanted to showcase their talents and to tackle stereotypes about Bmxers and skateboarders. Emily Martin, one of the event organisers, said: "We had an amazing turnout, with more than 100 skateboarders, BMXers and bladers performing some great tricks." Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet member for Children and Young people, said: "It's fantastic when young people come together and organise such a great event by themselves."



400 eligible for help with fuel bills

More than 400 households in fuel poverty are set to be helped this year as part of a city-wide initiative to tackle the problem.

Four projects have been launched over the past year as part of a Council drive to help people escape the growing crisis.

Households are defined as being in fuel poverty when more than 10 per cent of their income is spent on heating bills. The issue is a particular problem in Coventry, with 21.1 per cent of households in the city classed as being in fuel poverty - above the national average of 19 per cent.

It has led the Council to become involved in four partnership schemes targeting the elderly and people living in priority neighbourhoods. They include the Warm Home Discount Scheme, run in partnership with energy supplier E.ON and through which 400 residents have been identified as eligible for help with their winter fuel bill. Other schemes include a city-wide free home insulation scheme with

Nuneaton-based Rockwarm, the Warm Front scheme in partnership with Carillion Energy Services and the Keeping Coventry Warm Project.

Cllr Ed Ruane, Coventry's Cabinet member for Housing, said: "Statistics show that about 30 people die every year as a direct result of cold weather conditions in

Young promote peace

Three young people from Coventry have just returned from a student conference in Volgograd.

The young people were invited along with representatives from 10 other European countries to take part in The International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future.

Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, is one of Coventry's 26 twin cities and the first ever international twinning link formed in 1944.

Twinning began after the Second World War as a way of promoting reconciliation and friendship.

During the conference, Lucy Ryan and Amy Handy of Cardinal

Newman, and Elliot Jenkins (Westwood), all aged 17, took part in a series of presentations, including, What Coventry does for Peace, an evening of national culture where Lucy did a ballet dance to the song *River Flows In You*, by Yiruma.

A second presentation - The postcard of Coventry - saw them talking about and describing the city of Coventry. Elliot also participated in the Pie of Peace event, where he joined one member of each country's delegation in creating a pie.

The young people also met Natalia Kulishenko, author of the

first ever Russian biography of Queen Elizabeth II, *Becoming Queen*, and were given a copy of her book to give to the Lord Mayor of Coventry as a gift.

Amy said: "Going to Volgograd was an amazing experience for all of us.

"The peace conference taught us the importance of international friendship, leaving us with the message that if we have friends in all countries, there can be no wars."

Participants in the conference also participated in a minute's silence to commemorate the last day of the Second World War Battle of Stalingrad.

Coventry. In the 21st century, that is clearly unacceptable."

Councillor Abdul Khan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Local Infrastructure, added: "A lot of good work has been carried out but we are not complacent and realise that more needs to be done."

A joint meeting of Cabinet members to discuss Housing and Sustainability and Local Infrastructure issues heard earlier this month about Government plans to launch the Green Deal, a £1.3 billion efficiency initiative, towards the end of 2012.

■ City tops eco chart

— Page 9

Action aims to stem the misery of homelessness



City street gets a graphic makeover

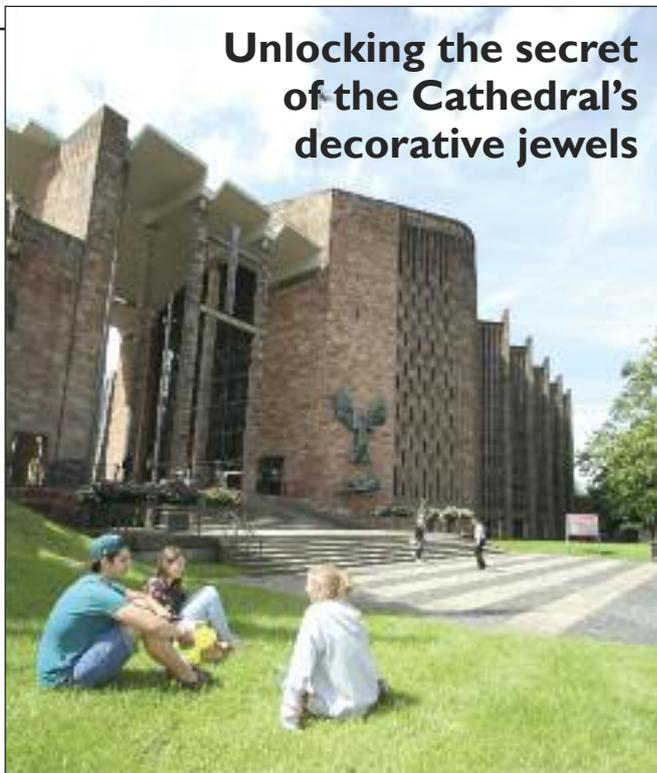
The latest improvement to Hertford Street has been welcomed by Cllr Lynnette Kelly, Cabinet member for City Development.

A window graphic depicting some of the city's events in history, has been installed in the walkway leading to Ford's Hospital in Greyfriars Lane.

Cllr Kelly said: "This is a great idea and with the improved lighting already installed and part of the roof removed it brightens up the whole walkway.

"The new flowerbed, the de-cluttering, the cleaned shop fronts and the new canopy have really made a difference to the Hertford Street experience."

The scheme complements a £7m investment programme (part funded by ERDF) which includes improvements to Broadgate, the connection between Bull Yard and the railway station, and shared spaces in Gosford Street and Hales Street.



Unlocking the secret of the Cathedral's decorative jewels

An exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of Coventry Cathedral gives visitors the chance to see the early plans, designs and sketches for the artwork which decorates the building. Architect Sir Basil Spence referred to the new Cathedral as a casket of jewels, and asked the major artists of the day to create these 'jewels' in the form of stained glass, sculpture and, the tapestry. The Journey in to the Light exhibition runs until the end of October.

'We're here to help' offer for parents

The Council has launched a campaign to encourage more parents to seek the help they need early when bringing up children.

The campaign – Whatever children bring, you're not alone... – aims to inform parents that they have access to a range of free support and practical advice from friendly and knowledgeable staff.

This includes the Triple P group programme, where parents can sit in and listen to trained staff talk about common issues, and one-to-one support between a parent and a member of staff.

Parents who have attended one of

the Triple P parenting programmes said that:

■ 'It helped me develop my parenting skills and has had a positive impact on my family'.

■ 'Our house is so much happier and I feel I have the tools to deal with problems'.

If you're a Coventry parent, have children aged 0-16 years and would like free informal advice about support, call on 024 7683 4373. Alternatively, visit www.coventryparent.co.uk. You can also email coventryparent@coventry.gov.uk

■ **How are we doing on parent support?** - See pages 20-21

A new scheme has been launched by Coventry City Council to help residents access the private rented housing market.

The Access to Private Rented Properties (APRP) initiative will guarantee the deposit for families looking to use the scheme.

The move is to tackle the issue that the deposit is one of the main factors that deter people from renting in the private market.

But the deposit will only be paid to private landlords who also join the Access to Private Rented Properties scheme.

The APRP team will offer landlords a free service that will take the hassle out letting their properties.

There are no administration charges, fees or commission. The team inspects properties to Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) standards and offers specialist support for the length of the tenancy.

For more information, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/housing, email aprp@coventry.gov.uk or telephone 024 7683 1919.

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www.coventry.gov.uk/housing

Eco homes lead way in tackling energy waste



■ Cllr Ed Ruane takes a look around the new development with Victoria Johnstone, a member of the Sustainable Investment Team at Orbit Heart of England.

Coventry's leading councillor for housing has been finding out more about a pioneering eco-friendly residential scheme that is helping to fight fuel poverty. Cllr Ed Ruane, Cabinet member for Housing, visited the social housing development at Sampson Close in Bell Green, where housing association Orbit Heart of England has built 23 ultra low-energy homes of apartments and five houses. The £2.8-million development, completed in conjunction with Orbit Homes and part funded by the Homes and Communities Agency, was the first Passivhaus housing complex completed in the

West Midlands. Passivhaus or Passive House is the fastest growing energy performance standard in the world, creating homes with an ideal indoor climate all year round without the need for energy-intensive heating or cooling systems. A Passivhaus makes the most of its natural surroundings, often using large south-facing windows to maximise the sun's natural light and warmth, and fresh air for natural ventilation. Cllr Ruane said: "In the current economic climate where fuel poverty is a real and increasing issue, there are lessons we can learn from this unique scheme."

Waste heat helps keep city warm

A new scheme to save thousands of pounds in heating public buildings and helping those in fuel poverty to use heat shipped from the Waste to Energy plant has been given the go-ahead by the Council. The groundbreaking scheme will see buildings such as the Council House, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum and Coventry Cathedral being supplied heat and hot water from the Waste to Energy plant in Whitley. The plan is to extend the scheme to benefit tenants in social housing. Cllr Abdul Khan, Cabinet member for Sustainability and Local Infrastructure, said: "By using the surplus energy from the incinerator in Whitley, we will be able to keep our fuel costs low which will benefit the taxpayer and also the environment."

Garden reminder
Residents are reminded that garden waste collections will stop in November over the winter. For information on when your last collection will take place, refer to your collection calendars or the website www.coventry.gov.uk/bindays.

Coventry leading the way in carbon premier league

Coventry has once again appeared top of a league table of British cities for reducing its carbon footprint.

It's the second year running that the city has featured in the table compiled by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which shows the city cut its carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 16.5 per cent from 2005 to 2010 – well above the average 10 per cent reduction achieved by the top twenty cities in Britain.

Every year DECC works out the emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, by looking at how much energy is used by industry and commerce, homes, and road transport – and then reports it by each council's area. It showed that Coventry has reduced industrial

emissions by 26 per cent, emissions from homes by nine per cent and those from transport by seven per cent. Since 2008 the Council and Coventry Partnership have worked to a Climate Change Strategy which has set challenging carbon reduction targets.

The strategy was revised in March and committed the city to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 34 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050 against the 1990 baseline.

Councillor Abdul Khan, Cabinet member for Sustainability and Local Infrastructure, said: "It's great news that here in Coventry we are doing so well in reducing our carbon footprint. It shows that we're using energy more efficiently in our homes, workplaces, and in the ways we travel."

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Know the form when it comes to petitioning

Guidelines on how to submit a petition are being offered by the Council to help local people highlight issues they want action on.



For a petition to be valid, the Council's Petitions Scheme requires only five people who live, work or study in Coventry to have signed it and provided their names addresses. Petitions received by the Council can range from issues about traffic calming to road maintenance and anti-social behaviour; and it is important to know that there are a few simple steps to follow.

Petitions can be about any local problem ranging from something that affects a few houses to a city-wide

issue. Residents can submit petitions to the Council in two ways – either by the traditional route of collecting signatures by hand and sending it to the Council (a paper petition), or by using the Council's online petitions service (an ePetition). Signatories need to provide their names addresses and signatures presented clearly – the graphic here shows how the form looks Details are available at www.coventry.gov.uk/petitions.



Jack's ahead in the karting fast lane

A budding Jensen Button is looking for support to take part in the British Championships.

Jack Griffiths, aged 14, of Green Lane, Coventry, first started driving go-karts from the age of nine and now races his own kart all around the Midlands. The Finham Park student met with Coventry Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Gary Crookes and his wife Shirley, the Deputy Lady Mayoress,

who are backing Jack's efforts.

He said: "Jack is an inspiration. I think it is a great project and hope that sponsors come forward."

You can find out more by contacting Jack on 02476690396 or email griffo63@btinternet.com. Any company willing to support Jack will get national advertising, a monthly newsletter and the chance to watch and race with Jack.

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Whats On

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An Evening With Quentin Wilson
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Fri 26 Oct 2012 to Sun 3 March 2013
 ScooterMania
 An exhibition of British scooters from the 1950s and 60s.

Sat 27 Oct to Sun 4 Nov
Half Term Activities
 A range of retro crafts and activity trails for families to enjoy together

Sat 17 & Sun 18 Nov
Christmas Craft Fair
 Local craftspersons, beautiful one-off gifts and a lovely day out.

Sat 17 Nov
Blitz Family Day
 Experience life during World War II at the Transport Museum, the Herbert and Coventry Cathedral.

Sun 18 Nov
Campers Christmas
 A Christmas light show with a difference – come and see camper vans and scooters "blinged" with lights and decorations in front of the Museum.

www.transport-museum.com
Tel: 024 7623 4270



Generation game gives seniors and the young the chance to share skills

Age UK Coventry, the Belgrade Theatre and the Council are holding events to celebrate International Older People's Week, under the banner The Big Skill Share.

The events beginning on Monday, October 1, are about sharing skills and

experience between different generations.

Wii sports, indoor bowls, zumba, tai chi, knitting and technology, plus holistic therapy tasters, will all be on offer on Wednesday, October 3, between 11am and 2pm at Central Methodist Hall, Warwick Lane, Coventry, CV1 2HA.

Dave Montgomery from Age UK said: "Older people have a lifetime of knowledge and experience to share with the young and this is the perfect opportunity to bring the two groups together."

For more information visit www.coventry.gov.uk/opw

Where were you in the 1940s?



Holbrooks residents look back at the 1940s at a nostalgic workshop at the Ricoh Arena. Members of the Holbrooks Residents' Association took a trip down memory lane at the reminiscence workshop, which looked at the experiences of living in Coventry during the 1940s.

Topics included the part played by sport in helping people cope during the war and early post-war years, and also what memories people had of the 1948 Olympic Games. Local historian Trevor Harkin talked about his research work on his books on Coventry and its people, while Basil Heatley, who won silver in the

marathon at the 1964 Olympics, was among the many guests who turned up for the event. Basil, who is now 78, said: "I was 14 at the time of the 1948 Olympics, and the games had a big impact me."

The project was funded by a grant from the Coventry Community Games Fund, which is backed by Coventry City Council, Orbit Heart of England, and the NHS Change for Life programme, administered by the Heart of England Community Foundation. The project is also being supported by The Ricoh Arena Community Space and Coventry CEN.

Making a song and dance in drama over Albany theatre

A campaign by the Albany Theatre Trust to ensure that the former Butts College building remains a performing arts venue has been highlighted as part of the city's Heritage Open Weekend.

The Grade II-listed building has a newly refurbished atrium, and volunteers were among other local people who were on hand to showcase the improvements to visitors recently and highlight plans to revive the College Theatre which was first opened in 1935. The building, which includes striking art deco features, closed its doors in January 2009.

When it was sold, Coventry City Council incorporated an agreement in the terms of the sale which required the new owners and developers of the site to retain the theatre. The agreement also provided for the creation of a theatre trust to manage it as a community theatre.

Since its inception, the Albany



Volunteers Terry and Sue Hartshorn, Vicki Major and Gerry O'Grady – members of the Guildhall Operatics Society – take centre stage at the former Butts College.

Theatre Trust has been working tirelessly to bring the theatre back into working order, with the unwavering assistance of a small team of volunteers.

David Meredith, chair of the Trust, said: "We couldn't have opened the doors of the theatre had it not been for the volunteers, who are so committed to getting it up and running by the beginning of 2013."

Calling all Diamond Jubilee couples

Lord Mayor Cllr Tim Sawdon is inviting Diamond couples to a party in October in honour of the Queen.

And the invitation is also being extended to ladies celebrating their 86th birthday – the same age as the reigning monarch.

As part of Coventry's celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, the Lord Mayor is inviting all those who fall into either category to a special party in October.

Cllr Sawdon said: "It was a real honour for Coventry to



have HMS Diamond launch the Jubilee Celebrations and I wanted to do something locally to mark the Jubilee.

"If anyone from the city is celebrating 60 years of marriage or is a Coventry lady celebrating her 86th

birthday this year, we'd like them to get in touch as we want to organise a special event for them."

Those who qualify should call the Lord Mayor's office at the Council House on 024 7683 3047.

How can the web improve our city?

People who have creative ideas on how the web can help improve the city are invited to take part in a weekend event called CityCamp Coventry.

The event aims to encourage and enable local government, businesses,

community organisations and academia to share knowledge, web technologies and experience to help shape the future of Coventry.

The three-day event runs from October 19 to 21. To sign up, visit www.citycampcov.org.uk/

What a difference a year

18 months on from last year's consultation, the city centre has a whole new feel

After a great summer most people will have enjoyed some of the many fantastic events in the new look, traffic free, Broadgate.

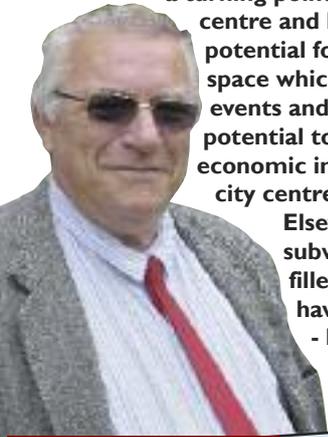
Improvements at Bull Yard, Trinity Street and Hertford Street have also been completed and the pedestrian route between the city centre and the Railway Station has been redesigned making it a lot easier for visitors to find their way into the heart of the city.

But turn the clock back just 18 months to May 2011 and parts of the city centre looked a lot different. We've highlighted these changes by featuring a few before and after pictures of the city centre that reveal just how much has changed.

Sometimes it's hard to remember how things looked before - but these photos show just how much these areas of the city centre have changed.

In July, a global market took centre stage in Broadgate creating a European feel bustling with shoppers. It also marked a turning point for the city centre and highlighted the potential for the traffic free space which is ideal for events and has the potential to kickstart economic improvements for city centre businesses.

Elsewhere, two subways have been filled in and paths have been widened - helping to improve the connection



After...

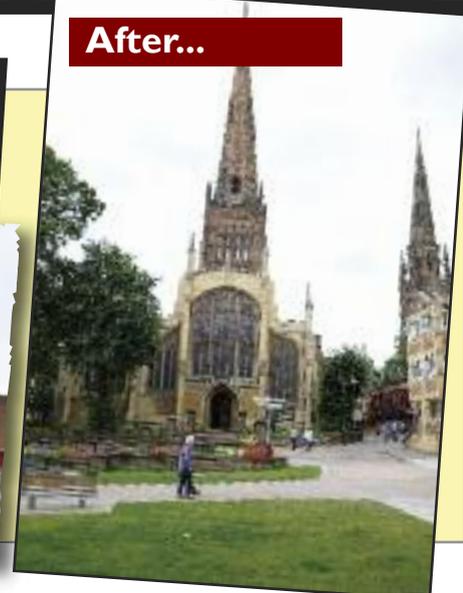


After...



TRINITY STREET

After...



Before...



makes...

BROADGATE

After...



Before...



After...



**BULL
YARD**

Before...



between the railway station and city centre while de-cluttering has improved the settings for some of the city's most stunning buildings. Two new areas of grass have been laid at Bull Yard and outside Holy Trinity Church and new trees and stunning flower displays have been planted. The new benches in Broadgate, set up to encourage conversation are being well used and across the city centre pavements have been widened and road narrowed to shift the emphasis on to pedestrians rather than cars.

Council leader John Mutton (pictured far left) said: "So far it's been a fantastic year for Coventry. The Olympic Games were spectacular and it was a real pleasure to welcome the world to our fine city. But it hasn't all been about the Olympics. It has also been about the continuing success of our city. In less than 18 months we have been able to begin the transformation of the city centre. We have invested in our new Broadgate, transformed the link between Bull Yard and the station and improved the settings of some of our finest buildings."

He added: "I believe we have set a new standard, one that we will expect the next phase of redevelopment, which includes the £300 million City Centre South and Friargate at the station, to live up to. There is no one keener than me to get going - but part of setting this new, high standard is also about not settling for anything less - and waiting until we can secure the kind of development that the people of this city deserve."



Under starter's orders are Lord Mayor Cllr Tim Sawdon, event organisers and staff from charity partner Zoë's Place Baby Hospice. Below right, runners at the start of last year's event.

Team relay and new finish line give city run a different look



The 2012 Decathlon Coventry Half Marathon and Coventry Telegraph Fun Run return to the city on Sunday October 14.

There are also some exciting new changes and additions to this year's events, with a new finishing stretch to the race and fun-run with competitors passing through the redeveloped Broadgate, as well as a new challenge – the team relay event.

The four-leg team relay aims to get more people involved, by allowing them to run shorter distances as opposed to the whole

13.1-mile course. With legs of two, 4.8, 3.2 and 3.1 miles to the finish, it means running the entire course is not such a challenge.

The Coventry Telegraph Fun Run (approx 1km) provides the ideal opportunity for families of all ages and abilities to get involved. Whether you decide to run, walk, push the toddlers in a pushchair or perhaps even take part in fancy dress, the Fun Run is suitable for everyone.

Why not choose to get sponsored on behalf of our official charity partner, Zoë's Place Baby Hospice? Every single penny will help them

continue to provide specialist care and help for the many children and families who depend on them. Sponsorship forms are available by contacting the hospice on 024 7636 1675 or at www.zoes-place.org.uk/coventry

All entrants to the Decathlon Coventry Half Marathon, the Team Relay and Coventry Telegraph Fun Run will receive a £10 voucher when they sign up to Decathlon's Loyalty card.

Sign up on the website, www.coventryhalf.com, and we'll see you at the start line!

Taking the short route to soccer success

Around 100 schoolchildren competed in a football tournament at Longford Park, organised by community volunteers Jim Sweeney and John Robinson.

Jim and John have dedicated more than 20 years helping children to take part in local sport in the neighbourhood.

Short Football helps to develop both technical skills and fair play – and players are deducted points for foul play. The four-a-side game is played within a small lightweight arena which can be transported in the boot of a car and



set up in any local park. Jim, aged 54, said: "It's a fantastic sport and a great way to stay active and make friends. We appreciate all of the support we get."

Longford Ward councillors George Duggins, Linda Bigham and Lindsley Harvard, said they were amazed at the way volunteers dedicated so

much of their time to make a difference to local people.

For more information on short football, contact Jim on 07788905447.

Youngsters excel in their field

Cllr Jim O'Boyle was on hand to present the medals to the winners of the football tournament at the Coventry young people's Olympic-themed sports day at Lyng Hall School.

Up to 200 young people took part in the event, which kicked off with a five-a-side tournament. The young people enjoyed a range of track and field activities, including 100-metre race, javelin, long

jump and 400m relay, followed by a three-legged race, sack race, fancy dress race, wellie wanging and a team quiz.

Cllr O'Boyle, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, said: "It's good to see young people putting so much energy and enthusiasm into the games."

The event also included dance taster workshops, music and health awareness information.

Thank you Coventry – you did us proud!

Twelve football matches, 26 goals, more than 160,000 spectators and 870 visiting journalists and photographers – just some of the many statistics that reflect our exciting summer as a London 2012 host city.

The sun shone as the city welcomed the world over a truly amazing three weeks. As well as the football, crowds flocked into the city centre for the spectacular Godiva Awakes, part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad; enjoyed the culinary delights of the international food market in Broadgate; and watched all the action from the Olympics on the big screen at the Live Site.

Over eight days at the City of Coventry Stadium locals and visitors alike enjoyed some excellent football including cheering Team GB in the women's quarter-final match against Canada and were well looked after to and from the Stadium by teams of Coventry Ambassadors.

Inside, many more volunteers or 'Gamesmakers' supported the spectators, media, athletes and officials.

At the start of July thousands of you had welcomed the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay with a wonderful evening celebration in War Memorial

Park followed by an early morning send off from Millennium Place.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games have just finished in London and last month Coventry was one of the cities that celebrated the Paralympic Flame during

an exciting afternoon in Millennium Place.

So thank you Coventry, you did it right and made the city proud, playing our part in the greatest sporting event in the world.

Team GB fans at the City of Coventry Stadium Coventry



Inside this issue:

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Coventry welcomes London 2012

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Carnival fun and the procession to London

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Long-term improvements mean Olympic legacy ensured

Welcome

Cllr John Mutton - Leader of Coventry City Council

Wow, what a couple of months we have experienced in the city of Coventry. I am so proud of what we achieved, the fantastic welcome we gave to visitors and the legacy our Olympic experience leaves with us.

Many spectators will have enjoyed their only Olympic experience in Coventry but I am confident it will have been a memorable and happy one. The crowds flocked to the football – colourful, noisy and excited.

It was a pleasure to welcome many of Coventry's twin cities here during London 2012 and their representatives enjoyed some Olympic Football, a reception and screening of the Opening Ceremony as well the incredible Godiva Awakes spectacular.

The Olympic flags and banners may be disappearing but the memories live on and I am confident that this is just the start of great things for this city. The improvements to the city's infrastructure are ongoing and are already making a huge difference to all who live or work in the city.

There is more to come.



David Moorcroft - Lead Coventry 2012 Games Ambassador

I am still getting my breath back after such an incredible summer of Olympic and Paralympic action. The whole country is buzzing with the success of London 2012 in terms of its organisation, Team GB's performance and the fantastic way we welcomed the world to the UK.

As someone born and bred in Coventry, I am especially proud of Coventry's contribution to this success – the city really embraced the spirit of the Games with the Torch Relay and an array of arts, sporting and cultural projects. As host to 12 Olympic Football matches the city showed it could deliver on the biggest stage and do so with a big smile.

London 2012 aims to 'inspire a generation' and I am delighted that many in the city have signed up to take part in sport through the Join In initiative. A healthier city must be our aim and will be an important legacy from the undoubted success of London 2012.



A special visit to London 2012 ceremonies



A group of Coventry's unsung sporting heroes were rewarded for their efforts and attended two of the most spectacular events at London 2012.

Host cities had been given the opportunity to take a small number of places at the London 2012 Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Leader of Coventry City Council, Cllr John Mutton decided to ask the public

to nominate local people who make a difference in grassroots sport across the city.

Those chosen were: Coventry Godiva Harriers coach Gordon Horne, Tile Hill Trojans basketball club chairman Ross Alexander, Coventry Sphinx club secretary Jackie McGowan, Coventry schoolboy football coach Jim Sweeney,

junior football coach Lee Thomas, Neil Parker of the Coventry East School Sports Partnership and project manager of Africa Inspires, and Coventry Judo Club coach Bruce Newcombe.

The sporting heroes were presented with their tickets by Cllr Mutton at a special ceremony in July at the Council House and then

driven to London for their amazing Olympic experience.

After enjoying the Opening Ceremony Jackie McGowan said "What a fantastic experience – it was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never ever forget. The whole day was out of this world and I'd like to thank everyone involved."

Cllr John Mutton with Coventry's Unsung Sporting Heroes

City lights up for Paralympics

Coventry was chosen as one of 36 communities across the country to host Flame Celebrations for the London 2012 Paralympics.

The celebration, held at the London 2012 Live Site, Millennium Place in August, saw Lord Mayor Cllr Tim Sawdon and Rita Thompson, Coventry's former Paralympic Gold Medallist and Paralympic Flame Ambassador join local Paralympic legends for a packed afternoon of sport and entertainment.

The Paralympians included Mark Butler - Swimming, Keith Morriss - Shooting, Anna Turney - Skiing and Liz Stone - Equestrian.

Crowds were able to have a go at a range of Paralympic sports including wheelchair

basketball, blind football and tandem cycling. The Notables, Victoria Oruwari and Freefall Dance Company provided entertainment.

The Paralympic Flame had been lit in London the previous day and brought to the city in a special miner's lantern by Rita Thompson and the Lord Mayor.

Seven local athletes took part in the London 2012 Paralympic Games; Nigel Murray in Boccia, brothers Joe and Sam Ingram in Judo, Mandip Sehmi in Wheelchair Rugby, James Roe in Rowing, Sam Ruddock and Melissa Nicholls in Athletics.

And 17 local children were given special VIP treatment

and the best seats in the house at the Paralympic Opening Ceremony last month. The children, all aged seven share a special birthday 20 December 2004; the year that London bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games and included a special Children's Promise to involve those children born that day. They also played a part in the



Lord Mayor Tim Sawdon and Coventry's Paralympic Flame Ambassador Rita Thompson receive the Flame in London

London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay.

PARALYMPIC SUCCESS

Congratulations to James Roe (Gold), Sam Ingram (Silver) and Nigel Murray (Bronze) for their recent success in the Paralympic Games.



Wheelchair basketball in Millennium Place

Coventry celebrates



Ali Abdillahi carries the Torch from Millennium Place



The crowds at War Memorial Park welcoming the arrival of the Olympic Flame to Coventry

The London 2012 Olympic Flame arrived in Coventry on Sunday 1 July welcomed by 20,000 people gathered in War Memorial Park with many more lining the streets into the city. The sun had come out after the torrential rain of the previous week and it really was Coventry's moment to shine.

Hundreds had lined the route as the Torch Relay arrived in Coventry after visiting Kenilworth, Warwick and Stratford earlier in the day. Crowds outside the Park saw 16 year old Chanel Carter - nominated for her resilience and determination following the amputation of part of her right leg - hand the Olympic Flame over to former Coventry City footballer, Kanu. Then, it was left to 18 year old Debbie Horton to carry the Flame

into War Memorial Park and light the cauldron. Debbie was nominated because of her campaigning work that ensures young people are at the heart of decision making within local communities.

During the build up to the arrival of the Olympic Flame the crowds were entertained by local dancers, Freeman Dance Gangsters as well as Morning Parade and Twist and Pulse. Seventeen children from Coventry all born on 20 December 2004 also took to the stage as part of London 2012's Children's Promise initiative. After the cauldron had been lit local theatre company Talking Birds performed their Song for Phoenix, a love letter to the city of Coventry.

The evening celebration was the biggest event in the Midlands.

its moment to shine

Despite grey skies and the early morning start hundreds of people came out the next day to see the Olympic Flame leave the city. Businesses had heeded advice with many cafes opening early to cater for the visitors so the city centre was buzzing with anticipation. At just before 7am the first torchbearer, 18 year old Ali Abdillahi left from The Transport Museum in Millennium Place heading for the city's Cathedral. Ali, the council's nominated torchbearer, was a Somalian asylum seeker when he arrived in this country aged 13. He was fostered by Mary and Dave Hart and has achieved nine GCSEs and a BTEch sports diploma.

After running through the Cathedral grounds accompanied by music from the Three Spires Choir, Ali carried the torch into the newly refurbished Broadgate where he passed the Olympic Flame onto Sean O'Keefe, 46.

Sean was nominated by his colleagues at work for the tremendous fundraising and voluntary aid work he does supporting health projects

in Tanzania and homeless young people in Cape Town.

School children lined the route along Binley Road and Brandon Road, many with their own Olympic torches made at school, all cheering as the Olympic Flame finally left the city on its way to Rugby and, eventually, to London for the Opening Ceremony.

A special detour was taken

to enable the Olympic Flame to visit one of the venues for London 2012; the City of Coventry Stadium. Here, triathlete, Tim Don carried the torch and was welcomed by pupils from John Shelton Primary School, Daniel Gibney, Chief Executive of the City of Coventry Stadium and Cllr John Mutton, Leader of Coventry City Council.

The torchbearers and

their families returned to the Transport Museum to meet the Lord Mayor, Cllr Tim Sawdon and many of the city's Olympians and Paralympians.

Throughout the 70 day London Olympic Torch Relay, 19 people from Coventry carried the torch. Eight thousand torches were made in Coventry by local firm, Premier Group.



Tim Don carries the Torch into the City Of Coventry Stadium with help from John Shelton Primary School pupils



The Olympic cauldron lit in War Memorial Park



Chanel Carter proudly carries the Torch

Kicking it off in Coventry



Canada v France Women's Olympic Football

Coventry became the first city in England to host Olympic Games competition since 1948, when the first of 12 matches of the London 2012 Olympic Football competition took place on Wednesday 25 July.

From 25 July to 9 August, seven women's games and five men's were played in the city with the 16 nations training at the University of Warwick and staying in local hotels. All of them found the city welcoming and facilities excellent.

More than 160,000 people had an Olympic experience in Coventry as part of London 2012, an average of 20,000 per match day. Fans from across the world made the city centre and City of Coventry Stadium come alive in support of their team and provided an incredible atmosphere no matter who

was playing. There was huge excitement, anticipation and a rush for tickets when Team GB women went through to play their quarter-final at the City of Coventry Stadium. Despite loud, loyal and colourful support from the home fans, Canada proved too strong winning 2-0. They were to return for the women's bronze medal match against France which was agonisingly close with Canada clinching it deep into injury time.

Hundreds of the world's media also came to Coventry, giving the city the opportunity to showcase itself to the world on a global scale like never before. FIFA President Sepp Blatter, Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Trevor Brooking and Hope Powell also visited, along with many National Olympic Committee members and Ministers of Sport.

Free shuttle buses for those with a ticket operated well across the city centre and key transport interchanges. And hundreds of friendly Coventry Ambassadors

gave local and international visitors a fantastic welcome as well as valuable help and information about where to go and what to see and do.



Canada v France enter the stadium



Japan v Honduras



Supporters enjoying the game



Canada supporters enjoying the game



Canadian Women's Team celebrate their Bronze Medal

Godiva is alive and walking

Godiva Awakes, part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, has brought Godiva into the modern era and taken her on a journey to the heart of the London 2012 Celebrations.

To captivate the timeless figure that is Lady Godiva, Imagineer, the Coventry based producers of large-scale outdoor events, carnival and theatre, decided to re-awaken the iconic Lady Godiva for this special year.

Symbolising courage, fairness and social justice Godiva reflects the Olympic and Paralympic values.

The journey started with her awakening after 1,000 years of eternal slumber in front of hundreds in University Square and many more watching on a big screen in Broadgate.

Godiva awoke to a spectacular performance from the Godiva Choir, dancers, carnivalists and 220 young people in a procession marking the unveiling of a Godiva for the modern age.

Clothed in a transparent



medieval size 54 coat and her size 72 shoes, Godiva was the picture of magnificence.

A Book of Intent – carrying the hopes of young people - was presented to Godiva, in this once-in-a-lifetime performance, along with her quest to deliver the Book to London.

Tasked with sharing the

voices of the young to the world, Godiva was the focal point of the city's carnival the next day.

Complete with blonde hair and blue eyes, Lady Godiva walked from the Cathedral Ruins to Broadgate to meet her bike-powered cyclopedia for the first time.

Accompanied by over 2000 carnival performers, Godiva was escorted by exuberant

dancing hummingbirds, a giant fish, a roaring golden lion, and a myriad of little demons.

The Carnival was a glorious display of startling costumes, lively music and dancing, with participation from the local community.

Having greeted the cheering crowds from the city centre, Godiva left the streets of Coventry to begin





her journey to London.

Showing courage and determination, the journey to London was an extraordinary challenge for the 100 cyclists who powered Godiva all the way from her home town of Coventry to London, the home of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On route many of the towns held celebrations to connect Godiva's journey to the local community and link the host towns directly to the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad celebrations.

Stuart Berry, one of the 100 cyclists that powered Godiva to London, said: "The reception we received from all the places we

passed through each day was fantastic."

After reaching a climax in Waltham Forest, the final stop on Godiva's journey, a lasting legacy had been created for the city of Coventry.

Now, to preserve this

legacy, Godiva will awake every year to lead the annual carnival and it is hoped that in the future she will visit other parts of the country and even the rest of the world.



Coventry Ambassadors celebrating the Olympic Games Closing Ceremony at the Live Site, Millennium Place

Proud to be part of it

Coventry Ambassadors played a crucial role in the city's hugely successful London 2012 experience. The ambassadors, all volunteers, provided information, assistance and a warm welcome to the thousands of visitors who arrived from all over the world to attend the 12 football matches hosted at the City of Coventry Stadium.

On match days ambassadors could be found at the railway station, Pool Meadow Bus Station, and along all routes up to and around the City of Coventry Stadium, directing and welcoming visitors.

Over 150 ambassadors covered each match-day, sometimes including two games, with many of the 330 volunteers involved on all eight days.

Ambassador, Deb Hunt said after the first match-day, "What a blast, great atmosphere outside the stadium, fans commenting that we have a great city. So fantastic to be welcoming the rest of the world to Coventry ahead of the big kick off in London."

Following a recruitment campaign the ambassadors received training and many

had supported the Olympic Football qualification event held at the City of Coventry Stadium and the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay when it was in the city.

Cllr John Mutton, Coventry City Council Leader, met with the ambassadors at the Live Site where many gathered to watch the Closing Ceremony. He said: "We had visitors from all over the world during London 2012 in Coventry and everyone thought the ambassadors were fantastic. I'm so proud of them. They are all amazing and represent everything that's great about this city."

While the nation looked back on the 2012 Olympic Games the city's ambassadors came together as friends and to reflect on their role in putting the city on the map. The volunteers helped create a party atmosphere in Millennium Place after playing their part in welcoming London 2012 to Coventry.

The Coventry Ambassadors Programme was coordinated by Coventry City Council and Coventry University with support from Voluntary Action Coventry and CSW Sport.

Ambassadors at the City of Coventry Stadium and (below) the train station



City improvements

City's London 2012 makeover lives on

Coventry's centre has seen some dramatic improvements over the last 18 months as the city geared up for London 2012. The giant Olympic Rings and the flags, bunting and banners may be gone, but much of the change is permanent and is benefiting residents, shoppers, businesses and visitors.

The city centre now has a pedestrian friendly access route from the railway station to the shops and Broadgate has been transformed into a large pedestrianised space suitable for markets, events and outdoor entertainment.

It has already hosted the International Market during the Olympic Football, the regular farmers' market and the Coventry beach and mini funfair for children and families.

In the build-up to the Olympic Games a large set of Olympic Rings provided a spectacular backdrop to Coventry's London 2012 celebrations.

The Rings were installed just outside the City of Coventry Stadium on the Rowley Green roundabout. The five rings are coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red – representing the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world at the Olympic Games. The Olympic Rings are one of the world's most recognisable logos.

Seven floral sculpted

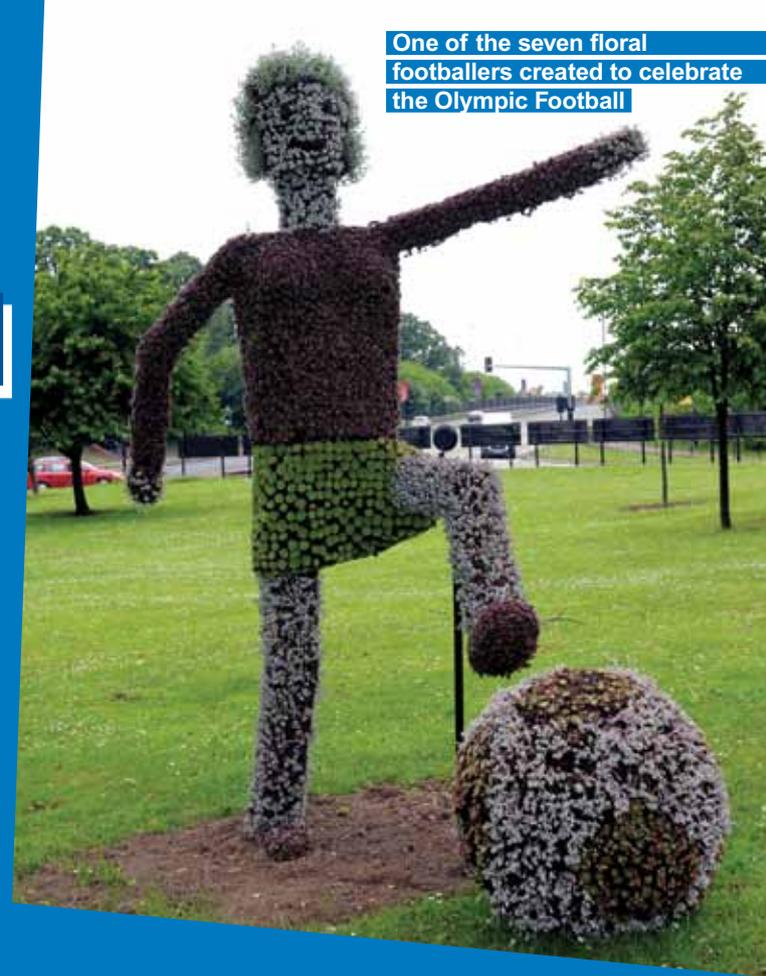
footballers were created to celebrate the Olympic Football and displayed on roundabouts across the city.

These will go on to be a permanent fixture in the city and will be replanted so they can be enjoyed year after year.

Twelve new metre high footballers were also constructed out of metal, and dressed in Olympic colours. These lined the route out of the city on the traffic islands between Binley Road and the Stadium.

Spectacular planters with flowers in the Olympic colours reflecting the spirit of the games are still brightening the city.

The London 2012 flags,



lamp-post banners, giant posters and bridge banners across the city have come down, but they will not be lost as many are going to schools and community groups as mementos of the tremendous summer of 2012.

If there are any remaining, these will be made available to members of the public. We ask that you make a donation to the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal, For information or to express an interest, e-mail tina.adkins@coventry.gov.uk



The newly developed Broadgate

Behind the scenes



The City of Coventry Stadium

Liz Cooper, marketing director at the Ricoh Arena, said: "The Olympic Football here at the stadium was an experience that everyone who was involved whether as a spectator or working behind the scenes will never forget and we are also benefiting from the legacy of the infrastructure

which has been left behind. "It's certainly been a phenomenal year so far here at the Ricoh, kicking off 2012 with three major exhibitions, 400 meetings of all sizes and then 42,000 people came to Coldplay just before the Olympics came to town so there was never time to catch your breath!"

"As a major event venue we are also using the Olympics as a hook to our ongoing PR campaigns in a number of business and trade magazines because there are masses of event organisers and we want to do all we can to encourage them to come to Coventry and Warwickshire"



Behind the scenes at the City of Coventry Stadium

TEAM RELAY...
Tackle the half marathon as a team of four...
Legs to suit at 2.0 mile (leg 1), 4.5, 3.2 and 3.1 (leg 4, the glory leg!)
£5 Decathlon voucher for all entrants

FUN RUN...
Half not for you? Go all the way in the fun run... (approx 1 mile), friends & family invited
Enter a group of four for £10

DECATHLON
Coventry HALF MARATHON
Sunday 14th October 2012
Starts 9:00am
ENTER NOW
coventryhalf.com
Every entrant will receive a **£10 Decathlon voucher**
24 hour automated information line
0870 122 2003
for entry forms and Q&As

DECATHLON NEW COVENTRY STORE OPENING SOON!
BIG-Q EVENTS LTD
Coventry City Council

Ambassadors to support half marathon



Following the huge success of the Coventry Ambassadors during London 2012 the volunteers will be coming to the fore again during the 2012 DE-CATHLON Coventry Half Marathon next month.

Some 60 ambassadors will be used in a variety of roles including marshalling the runners, servicing water stations and distributing the finishers' goodie bags.

David Boughey from

Coventry University, who co-ordinated the Coventry Ambassador programme and is Volunteer Manager for the Half Marathon event, said: "It is great to have this opportunity for our wonderful volunteers so soon after London 2012. It is a real example of the Olympic Legacy in action and I am sure the ambassadors will once again play their part in making this great Coventry event a success."

Search for
Coventry-2012 Games:



Coventry City Council, Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR
e-mail: 2012gamesenquiries@coventry.gov.uk

www.coventry.gov.uk/london2012

School's a class act for primary pupils

Dragon author fires up young readers with talk at Central Library

Popular children's author Cressida Cowell will be visiting Coventry's Central Library next month.

Writer of the best-selling *How to train your Dragon* series of books featuring Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third – the greatest Viking hero that ever lived – she will give a talk at the Smithford Way library at 3pm on Sunday, October 7.

Cressida's latest book *How to Seize a Dragon's Jewel* is published in October and will be available to buy at the library on the day. Cressida will be available to sign her books from 4pm onwards.

The hour-long talk is free but booking is required. For a place, call the Central Library on 024 7683 2314 or call into any of Coventry's 17 libraries. No booking is required for book signing session.

■ Did you know Coventry libraries offer facilities within their venues for readers' groups?

The service offers groups access to all the latest books in a



friendly atmosphere. If there is not a group near you, library staff will be happy to help you start one.

Look out for events, check out the reading group booklist and pick up tips on running your group at www.coventry.gov.uk/readersgroups

Culture therapy hits the right note on health treatment

A centre run by the Council that provides a base for people who are striving to improve their mental health is proving a success.



The Pod in Lamb Street, Coventry, challenges traditional beliefs on helping people recovering from mental health issues.

Once a month, the Pod café hosts a Revive Your Evening event, which recently featured Doug Tielli, a talented Canadian singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist (pictured).

The event is put together in collaboration with Taylor John. Tin Angel Records works with the Pod to stage the Wednesday evening event, which allows just about anyone to present their music and poetry.

For more details, check out www.coventry.gov.uk/pod

Pupils from Alderman's Green Primary started the school term in their new £7million state-of-the-art school building.

The 18-classroom building is divided into three houses, each with its own colour coding system and own classrooms.

The school has been built using an open-plan design to reduce potential bullying related issues. A number of terraces overlook a nature reserve beside the school.

The new building is on the same site as the old school, which is due to be demolished later this year. Improvements to the grounds are also planned.

The new building is part of a city wide expansion of primary schools in a bid to meet increased demand for places.

Henley's RESTAURANT

REOPENS
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Your four-page guide to what's new on the healthcare scene in and around Coventry

Be Flu Safe this winter



It may seem like a long way off, but it's never too early to make sure you are in the best health for winter.

Being prepared and in good health for when the cold weather hits means more time to enjoy the festive period when it arrives.

A nasty case of flu can really spoil your winter but there is something you can do to give yourself the best possible protection. The flu jab protects you from the flu virus and can not, despite the myth, make you ill.

Anyone aged over 65 or anyone under 65 with a health condition that affects their liver, kidneys or has problems with their immune

systems and all pregnant women should have a flu vaccination. If you are eligible for a free vaccination, your GP will be in contact with you to arrange an appointment.

Flu jabs are also available at many pharmacies and cost between £7 and £10. Having the flu jab is the best way to protect yourself and others from catching flu.

Your GP and A&E departments can't do anything to treat flu so if you are unwell or have other cough and cold symptoms, the best thing to do is stay at home, rest, keep well hydrated and take pain-relieving paracetamol.



■ Consultant Stephen Cooke.

Surgeon is British Orthopaedic Association's Trainer of the Year

Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant Stephen Cooke at University Hospital has been awarded Trainer of the Year from the British Orthopaedic Trainees Association.

The Association gives this annual award to Orthopaedic clinicians who trainees believe have gone above and beyond to deliver high standards of training.

Orthopaedic Trainee John McArthur nominated Stephen for this award, describing him as: "approachable, supportive and an inspirational consultant who delivers a clinically excellent service and who provides fantastic training."

Stephen is very honoured to have received this award and said: "I am very flattered that the trainees I teach nominated me for this award. As a newly qualified consultant I wanted to ensure the level of teaching and training I delivered was up to the same high standard of that I received. I would like to thank John and his peers who nominated me and I hope the training we provide at UHCW continues to be beneficial and effective."

'Feeling Good and Doing Well' - Health Village at Broadgate

Health experts took their public health messages out to people in Coventry, by giving them hands on advice and practical information about taking control of their own health as well as giving their children the best start in life.

NHS Coventry's Public Health team and partner organisations helped thousands of people from all walks of life. By simply talking to them about how to make simple lifestyle changes to help them get back on track and start leading a healthy lifestyle.

Dr Steve Allen, a Coventry GP and Accountable Officer at NHS Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "The focus of this event gave people the opportunity to find out which health services are available to them and their families. Public health professionals were there on the day offering advice and information to people who wanted to make a healthier choice. Throughout the day there was a range of physical activity sessions that took place on stage, including workouts to; Zumba, Bokwa, Yoga, Boxercise, Karate, Bhangra dancing and much more."



■ Above: Stephen Jones, Chief Executive of the Arden Cluster with Daisy Hallam aged seven, Katie Hallam aged 11 and Rory the lion. Left: Arden Cancer Network team promoting their messages at the Health Village.

Respiratory care project receives recognition at prestigious awards

Coventry's patient care pathway in the community for respiratory conditions has been highly commended at a recent awards ceremony for its redesign of care in the community and improving quality of services.

Glynis Washington, Clinical Services Redesign Manager at the Arden Cluster, said: "We were delighted to receive recognition at the awards ceremony, the Integrated Care Team has worked very hard at redesigning the care pathway for patients.

"The aim of the redesign was to get people good quality treatment in the community and

■ *Members of the integrated care team at the awards ceremony. The team has worked very hard at redesigning the care pathway for patients.*



support patients in how to self-care."

Colin Gelder Respiratory Consultant from University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, who is the clinical lead for this service said: "In the past patients would have to attend appointments in a hospital setting; however, the new service which comprises of a

respiratory consultant, specialist nurses, physiotherapist and health care assistant are all based in the community.

"Patients are seen by the specialists either in a community clinic, the patient's GP surgery or at home if they are really unwell, which makes this service more accessible for patients."

New recruits to health visiting

A Health Visitor checks the wellbeing of a baby. Seventy nine nurses are set to train as Health Visitors this year.



Following a very successful joint recruitment campaign between Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust and South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust, a total of 79 qualified nurses will be offered places to train to become Health Visitors in 2012/2013.

The recruitment of Student Health Visitors across the Arden Cluster is in response to the Government's commitment to increasing the number of Health Visitors by an extra 4,200 by April 2015.

New Student Health Visitors, already highly qualified nurses and midwives, will undertake a

further Post Graduate Diploma, BSc or Masters level qualification in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (Health Visiting) and the additional 12 month, full-time education and training programme will involve both university and practice-based study.

The majority of students will be commencing their training in September 2012, with the remaining numbers scheduled to start in January 2013.

Recruitment of Student Health Visitors will continue up until 2015. The most recent recruitment advertisement can be viewed by visiting www.jobs.nhs.uk.

Plain packaging to deter youngsters from smoking

Coventry's Smokefree Alliance is supporting the Government's consultation on standardising plain packaging on cigarette packets. Evidence suggests that the impact of health warnings is lost on branded packs.

Some brands are marketed in shiny packs or as 'super slims' which are particularly attractive to young women.

By introducing plain packaging, the health warnings will become bigger and more eye-catching against a plain background.

Clr Joe Clifford, chair of the Smokefree Alliance in Coventry, said: "We support the Government's consultation and proposals to standardise plain packaging on cigarettes.

The idea behind this proposal is to stop packaging itself acting as an advert to youngsters, tempting them into a highly-addictive habit that could seriously damage their health and lead to an early death."



Trust forges into research top 10

A local NHS Trust has forged into the 'league table' of Trusts nationally for the quality of its clinical research.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust has stepped up its research activity in recent years in order to strengthen the quality of services for the people it serves.

Only formed in 2006, the Trust is now recorded as being one of the most active NHS organisations of its type in the country.

National figures, collected by the National Institute for Clinical Research's Clinical Research Network, found that the Trust scored highly for the number of people using services recruited to clinical trials during April 2011 to March 2012.

Out of more than 80 similar Trusts nationally, the Trust was the 10th most successful in involving its patients in clinical research.

The Partnership Trust conducted 31 studies involving 1,153 patients, the data shows.

The figures were produced by the National Institute for Clinical Research's Clinical Research Network, and show that more than half a million people nationally took part in studies during 2010/11.

Consultant leads study into treating open fractures

A national research study to find the best way to treat open fractures is being led by Coventry orthopaedic consultant Matt Costa.

The majority of leg fractures are 'closed' i.e. the skin around the fracture is intact. However, if the fracture is 'open', ie the skin has been broken, then the broken bone is exposed to contamination which may lead to infection and disability.

Traditionally for open wounds, once it has been cleaned, a sterile dressing is applied to the exposed area. Negative-pressure wound therapy (NPWT) is an alternative innovative form of dressing where foam is laid onto the wound which is attached to a pump which creates a partial vacuum. This removes blood and ooze from the area of the wound, reducing the risk of infection but is more expensive than traditional wound dressings.

The research, which is being funded by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme, will compare both types of treatment in 460 patients over a year.

Mr Matt Costa, orthopaedic consultant at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust and Professor of Trauma and Orthopaedics at Warwick Medical School is chief investigator for the £2,180,337 study. He said: "Infections in fracture wounds cause patients pain and delay their recovery. I am hoping this study will demonstrate which is the best and most cost effective treatment for patients so that they get the best care as soon as possible."

Once an initial six-month study has been conducted, a main trial will commence in 18 trauma centres throughout the UK. Consultants will approach those with fractures to see if they wish to take part.

NHS 111 to roll-out in the West Midlands

The new NHS 111 service is gathering pace in the West Midlands area, ready for a planned 'go-live' date of before 1st April 2013. Following an extensive procurement process a preferred supplier – NHS Direct - has now been chosen from a shortlist of three potential suppliers.

Stephen Jones, Arden Cluster Chief Executive and Senior Responsible Officer for NHS 111, West Midlands comments: "We are delighted to announce that NHS Direct has been chosen as the preferred provider for the contract to deliver the NHS 111 service for the West Midlands area. We believe that NHS Direct is the right choice for the West Midlands."

NHS 111 is the new number to dial for non-life threatening healthcare services and will be live from 1st April 2013. This



new easy to remember number will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and will direct people to the service that is best able to meet their needs, taking into account their location, the time of day of their call and the capacity of local services. NHS 111 will respond to health care needs when:

You need medical help fast, but it's not a 999 emergency

You don't know who to call for medical help or you don't have a GP to call

You think you need to go to A&E or another NHS urgent care service

You require health information or reassurance about what to do next

Callers will be routed through to the new service from mid-February 2013, and encouraged to call the new number from 1st April 2013 onwards.

Forget-Me-Not dementia campaign at local hospital trust

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW) is constantly seeking new ways to improve the care for those who are in need of a little extra support and reassurance, especially those with dementia.

This initiative will be implemented on elderly care ward 40 as part of Alzheimer's Awareness month in September, which this year is focusing on dementia care.

Additionally, as part of UHCW's commitment to improve dementia care and to raise awareness, two Dementia Awareness sessions are being held in October for members of the public. These free

sessions have been organised to help people learn what dementia is and how to understand it better.

These events will be held on 8th October 2012, between 5pm-6pm in the Lecture Theatre in the Octopus Centre at the Hospital of St Cross, Rugby and 29th October 2012, between 5pm-6pm in the Lecture Theatre in the Clinical Sciences Building at University Hospital, Coventry. They will be led by Clinical Nurse Specialists in Dementia Care.

To book a place, contact Andrea Phillips on telephone number: 024 7696 4747 or via email: andrea.phillips2@uhcw.nhs.uk.

Check the signs of bowel cancer

Health services have been reminding people about the importance of checking for the symptoms of bowel cancer.

Bowel cancer is England's third most common cancer, with around 34,000 new cases each year. It affects both men and women and is responsible for around 13,200 deaths a year. Around nine out of ten people diagnosed with bowel cancer are aged over 55 and those with a family history are at more risk. Early detection of bowel cancer makes it more treatable.

The key symptoms are blood in poo or looser poo for three weeks or more. For further information, visit www.nhs.uk/bowelcancer



Spotlight on patient participation

What is Public and Patient Involvement?

Involving, and listening to local people, is absolutely vital to ensuring that health services meet their needs. This means not only asking people's views on changes to services as they develop, but also hearing patient stories and learning from their experiences.

GP practices in Coventry and Rugby have been embedding patient involvement into their everyday work through the introduction of Patient Reference Groups and around 90 per cent of GP practices in the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) area now have one.

As most people have contact with the health service through their general practice, the GP surgery is a natural place around which to build patient and public involvement activities.

The CCG is also developing innovative ways and using new technologies to involve patients, such as interactive websites and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, to make sure that as many people as possible are able to give their feedback and comments on local health services. Over 2,600 Coventry people and 1,000 Rugby people have signed up to work with the CCG to help us improve the patient experience.

Who's the Chairman?

Dr Adrian Canale-Parola, an experienced GP, has been appointed as Chair of the CCG Governing Body, and said: "I am delighted to be appointed to this position. These are very challenging

times for the NHS, with the Government looking to save £20 billion from its health care budget by 2014/15. It is inevitable that it will not be possible for the NHS to provide everything that local people would ideally like to have, so it is vitally important that the reasons underpinning the difficult decisions we will have to make are seen to be fair, justifiable, open and understandable to the public at large, and that the public are involved at every step. I will be doing my best to ensure that these requirements are met in full."

Lay Members take on new role

Three local people have been appointed to represent the views of local people on the CCG Governing Body and their role will be to challenge the CCG and ensure that patient and

It's your chance to have your say about the service you want



■ Lay Members Peter Maddock, Pamela Sampson and Charles Holmes, and (right) Dr Adrian Canale-Parola, a GP in Rugby and Chair of Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group.

public views have been taken into account in influencing the difficult commissioning decisions that have to be made.

Charles Holmes is the Lay Member appointed to lead this work in Coventry and Pamela Sampson has been appointed as the Lay Member for Rugby. Peter Maddock has been appointed as the Lay Member lead for Governance and he will oversee key elements of governance for the new organisation, including audit, remuneration and managing conflicts of interest, as well as confirming that appropriate systems of internal control are in place, including financial and risk management. He will also chair the CCG Audit Committee.

If anyone would like more details, or to get involved in the work of the CCG, please contact Esther Peapell on 024 7624 6158 or email esther.peapell@coventrypct.nhs.uk



What are our Commissioning intentions?

The CCG is working towards authorisation and in partnership with local stakeholders has been developing commissioning intentions for 2013/14. This involves deciding which improvements to healthcare will be prioritised in the next financial year.

The Council's key priorities are for jobs and growth, better pavements, streets and roads, to support and celebrate our young people and to protect our most vulnerable residents. Here, we look back at what has been achieved in 2011/12, and ask what's to come in 2012/13...

Just how well are we doing..?

...ON JOBS & GROWTH

The city centre-based Job Shop is a gathering point for local people to gain support to find work.

Since March, more than 8,000 Coventry residents have registered with the Job Shop. In partnership with the National Careers Service, the Council's Job Shop offers jobseekers information, advice and guidance, matching people's skills and abilities to a suitable job or placement. The Job Shop also offers workshops to help people improve their CVs and practice their interview skills. So far, jobseekers and employers alike have found the services useful:

jobseekers have commented on the helpfulness of the specialist advisers, while employers have commented on the quality of the applicants.

The Job Shop forms part of the Council's objective to help more people get jobs. In 2011/12, the Council helped 4,080 unemployed people, and supported or safeguarded 1,650 jobs in businesses across Coventry and Warwickshire. A revised Job Strategy for 2012/13 was approved in August, enabling the Council to help people secure job opportunities through investment; help people get jobs; and help people improve their skills.

If you're looking for a job, pop



In 2011/12, the Council helped 4,080 unemployed people, and supported or safeguarded 1,650 jobs...

down to the Job Shop on Hertford Street, and our advisers will be happy to help.

...ON ROADS/PAVEMENTS

The Council resurfaced 159 miles of road in the past two years. That's enough road to get you from Coventry to

Blackpool or Southend-on-Sea. The Council's approach for repairing the city's roads and pavements has been to do the worst first. The Council has a number of techniques at its disposal, from surface treatments, to full reconstruction for the worst affected roads. The techniques

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The Council received 74 per cent fewer complaints about potholes during the last 12 months...

used help to ensure that city roads stand up to future bad weather and reduce the number of potholes caused by ice and frost.

Coventry residents are already noticing the improvements.

There was a 74 per cent reduction in complaints about potholes during the last 12 months.

A number of residents have complimented the programmes, particularly the way that works have been organised to ensure they could get access to their properties without any hassle. Many have also commented on the quality of the finished road, saying it is amazing. The Council's resurfacing programme continues in 2012/13. Find out about road closures, road works and repairs scheduled for this year at www.coventry.gov.uk/roadworks/.

...ON YOUNG PEOPLE

Parenting courses in Coventry give parents the early help and support they need.

The following example explains what support is out there for parents who are finding bringing up their kids tough. Fiona*, a mum to eight-year-old John, found family life

Parenting courses form part of the Council's objective to ensure that families are given the early help and support they need... **

increasingly difficult. They had experienced domestic violence from Fiona's ex-partner, and John's behaviour was deteriorating. Through the Council's free Positive Parenting Course (Triple P), Fiona met other parents who were facing similar issues with their children, and learnt parenting techniques that work. This gave her the confidence to deal with the challenges. Back at home, she applied the new skills, putting in

place bedtime routines, and working with John's school to help him realise the impact his behaviour was having on other children. As a result, John's behaviour has changed and the atmosphere in the family home has improved.

Fiona is one of nearly 500 parents who have benefited from the Council's Triple P course. Parenting courses form part of the Council's objective to ensure that families are given the early help and

support they need. To find out about the range of parenting support available, visit www.coventryparent.co.uk or contact Parenting HQ on 0800 4346127.

...ON THE VULNERABLE

Housing Options helps people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

For instance Melissa*, a young mother with two sons aged three and five, became homeless after her relationship with her parents broke down. Housing Options assessed Melissa's housing need and identified that she required settled accommodation, and she agreed to consider private rented accommodation. Appropriate accommodation was available immediately and was close to other family members.

With the support of the Access to Private Rented Property team, Melissa secured a 12-month prevention of homeless tenancy. The team helped Melissa by providing a property inspection, negotiating terms with the landlord and providing the deposit guarantee agreement. Melissa was delighted with the property, the location, the introduction to the landlord and feels more confident in sustaining the property with the ongoing support of the team.

Melissa knows that in order to sustain her tenancy, she will need to save up over the next year for a bond to replace the deposit guarantee. Housing Options will maintain contact with her during the tenancy to ensure that it continues to be sustainable and successful.

The Council also protects other vulnerable residents through adult social care services, working with the police to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, working with public health to reduce health inequalities, and offering support to people and families affected by drug and alcohol abuse and misuse.

* Case study names have been changed to protect their privacy.

** Image does not relate to any child referred to in any of the case studies.



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Coventry City Council



■ Spirit Quarters' residents helping David Moorcroft OBE bury a time capsule in their neighbourhood.

Spirit of harmony puts scheme in pole position

Coventry's largest housing redevelopment scheme, Spirit Quarters, is up for a national award at the 2012 Regeneration and Renewal Awards.

The £360m scheme has been shortlisted in the best Community-led Regeneration category at the renowned industry awards for its commitment to putting the community in the driving seat for the

scheme. Ranging from strong consultation and community engagement with the wider community, through to resident decision-making, the scheme has proven that it is one of the best in the country. Martin Smith, a resident of Henley Green and chair of the Regeneration Action Team, said: "Residents have played an important part of the regeneration in this

neighbourhood from the very start as we were successful in securing the New Deal for Communities funding which helped kick-start the scheme."

The winners of the awards will be announced in London in November and if you would like to see what makes Spirit Quarters award-winning, watch a short film about their journey at www.moathousecommunitytrust.co.uk

Cash boost to aid disabled in politics

Individual grants of between £250 and £10,000 are being offered to disabled people who want to be selected as candidates for a local council election, or who are standing for election. The Access to Elected Office Fund helps meet the additional needs that a disabled person has associated with their disability, without which they could face an additional barrier in the selection and campaign processes. Coventry City Council is led by elected representatives from across the city. There are 54 in Coventry representing 18 wards. To find out more, visit www.accesstoellectedofficefund.org.uk

Year of partying for street residents

Headington Avenue residents were quick to take up the offer of holding another street party, following the success of their Diamond Jubilee party earlier this year.

Organiser Martin Green said: "Our Avenue is a different place since the jubilee party and we all really looked forward to this party.

"It was a fantastic day. An Olympic Torch and a torch bearer's tracksuit was lent to me, and I walked into the street with all the children behind me. It was a great

moment that will stay with me forever."

Vic Minett from BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Radio presented medals and prizes, and the event raised £205 from a raffle, half of which will go to Help for Heroes and the other half to a local charity.

"The Council cut the grass and lent us some olympic bunting, and the whole street joined in the fun," added Martin. "The day will remain in the children's memories for a very long time to come."

Ward forums are the way to have your say

If you want to have your say on local issues – whether it be tackling anti-social behaviour, concerns about traffic or you have ideas about improving your neighbourhood – why not attend your ward forum?

Ward councillors lead the forums with neighbourhood experts to answer questions and explain about the changes taking place where you live. Meetings are held four times a year.

Below is a list of some of the meetings and venues coming up in the next few weeks. Meetings are held from 7-9pm unless otherwise stated:

*Tuesday, October 2: **Binley & Willenhall**, Alan Higgs Centre, Allard Way, Binley, CV3 1HW.
Westwood, Xcel Centre, Mitchell Avenue, Canley, CV4 8DY.

*Wednesday, October 3: **St Michael's**, Hope Centre, Sparkbrook Street, Hillfields, CV1 5LB (6pm start).

*Thursday, October 11: **Whoberley**, Mary Magdalene Church, Sir Thomas Whites Rd, Chapelfields, CV5 8DT.

*Tuesday, October 16: **Cheylesmore**, Quinton Park Baptist Church, Quinton Park, Cheylesmore, CV3 5PZ.

*Wednesday, October 17: **Henley**, Henley Green Community Centre, Wyken Croft, CV2 1HQ.
Longford, Bell Green Community Centre, 3 Old Church Road, Bell Green, CV6 7BZ.

*Wednesday, October 24: **Upper Stoke**, St Margaret's Church, Argyll Street, Ball Hill, CV2 4EB.

For more details, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/wardforums

Festival of fun kicks off autumn

Here are some of the things you can enjoy during the autumn months around Coventry

SEPTEMBER

23 – Godiva in The Square, Broadgate (noon-10.30pm). A day of live music, performance and celebration with a mini festival featuring some of the bands who did not get to perform at this year's Godiva Festival. Acts include headliners The Subways and The Twang, plus Godiva Unsigned winners Dark Actors, Bollywood-style dancers and Reece Bahia, winner of a recent Young Entertainer of the year show hosted by The Rotary Club of Coventry Jubilee.

26 (Midweek Series) – What are Veteran Trees?, Coombe Country Park (6.30-8pm). Take a closer look at some of the park's trees dating back over 400 years. Cost £2.70.

OCTOBER

2-4 – Tiny Tot Explorers: Art Play, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (10.30-11.30am & 1-2pm). Creativity and learning through the use of sensory art materials and techniques. For children aged one to three. Cost £1 – booking essential via 024 7629 4774, The Herbert reception or www.theherbert.org.

7 – Seed Gathering Sunday, Tile Hill Wood, lay-by in Banner Lane (10.30am-noon). Help keep Britain's great tree heritage alive by collecting and planting seeds from native species in this ancient semi-natural woodland. Free – no booking required.

9 (also November 13) – Coventry Family History Society Help Desk, Central Library (2-3pm). Whether you're looking to learn a little more about your ancestors or an experienced researcher wanting to explore new horizons, you'll find the new Help Desk ready to assist.

12-13 – Lifestyle event, Broadgate (10am-4pm). A food and lifestyle event, with catwalk shows from city retailers and food demonstrations from celebrity chef Dean Edwards.

If you've an event you'd like listed, contact the *Citivision* newsdesk, Room 27, The Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RR or e-mail communications@coventry.gov.uk

Wedding venue steeped in history

Couples planning their big day are invited to come along to an autumn wedding fair at St Mary's Guildhall, one of Coventry and Warwickshire's most historic venues, on Sunday, October 14. There will be a chance to enjoy the unique medieval interiors dressed for weddings, free giveaways, and opportunities to chat to photographers, florists and other specialist suppliers.

Last year, more than 50 couples celebrated their big day at St Mary's Guildhall in Bayley Lane. Special deals will be on offer from suppliers, and couples booking a Guildhall wedding on the day can receive a 10 per cent discount on room rates. Marcus Lynch, manager of St Mary's Guildhall, said: "Nearly 700 years ago this magnificent building was built for the celebration of grand occasions for the privileged few, but now we welcome all for their special day."

The show runs from 11am until 4pm and admission is free. Check out www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk for more details. With the Coventry Half Marathon taking place on the same



day, visitors are advised to arrive early and plan their car parking in advance.

Wi-fi comes to Godiva's Café at St Mary's Guildhall

From October, the 21st century will come to the medieval undercroft at St Mary's Guildhall, home to Godiva's Café, with the arrival of Wi-fi. Godiva's café is open from 11am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday (also available for business breakfasts). Check out www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk/Godivas

13 – A Century of Art: 1912-2012, Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists Centenary Exhibition, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum. The free exhibition marks the society's 100th anniversary.

13 – Get Ready for Autumn, War Memorial Park (11am-1pm). Join us in the Visitors Centre to make a bird feeder or insect home. Cost £1.55 per child.

13 – Fungi Fun Day, Coombe Country Park (1.30am-12.30pm, 1.30-2.30pm, 3-4pm). A day of activities, including how to make homemade soup, mushroom identification, mushrooms in mythology, mushroom dos and don'ts and

craft activities for the kids. Cost £3.65pp (under 5s free). Booking essential on 024 7645 3720.

14 – Decathlon Coventry Half Marathon and Coventry Telegraph Fun Run, Millennium Place (9am). Every entrant will receive a £10 voucher to spend in Decathlon's new Coventry store. The event's charity for this year is Zoe's Place. Half marathon £25 per entry, team relay £44 per team of four, fun run £3 per entry or £10 for group of four. Visit www.coventryhalf.com

15-17 – Volunteer Day Coppicing and Hedge Laying, Tile Hill Wood (10am-3pm). Join the Park Rangers to lay hedges and coppice hazel. Register in

advance by phoning 024 7683 3633 and asking for a Ranger. Meet at Tile Hill Wood (on corner of Hawthorn Lane and Delius Street).

16 – Herbert Illuminations: Changing the Face of Coventry, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (12.30-1.30pm). Dr Jonathan Foyle, CEO of World Monuments Fund Britain, presents an overview of the joint project with Coventry Cathedral to safeguard and secure the future of the iconic ruins of St Michael's, Coventry.

19 (also November 16) – Farmers Market, Broadgate (9am-3pm).

20 – Table Top Sale, Hearsall Baptist Church, Queensland Ave, Coventry CV5 8FE (10.30am-1.30pm). Variety of stalls, refreshments and free admission.

21 – Apple Day, Lake View Park (10am-2pm). Tastings, children's craft workshop and a chance to buy local produce. Bring along an apple for identification and don't forget to enter the longest peel competition, with prizes.

21 (also October 30) – Early Years Creative Movement Session: Dancing with Dinosaurs, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (Session 1 12.30-1.15pm; Session 2 1.30-2pm). Cost £3.50. A playful movement class for children aged two to five. Booking required – fee payable at reception on the day of the event. To book, call 024 7629 4774, ask at Herbert reception or go to www.theherbert.org.

21 – Early Years Event: Structures of Splendour, Cathedral (10am-2pm), Herbert (11am-3pm). Join Coventry Cathedral and the Herbert as we celebrate the national Big Draw event. Start your day at the cathedral – open for free to participants – and use the architecture of both venues to create beautiful drawings. Visiting both venues means you will be able to pick up a Big

For a full list, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/events

Draw certificate for taking part. **27-28 – Samuin, All Hallow's Eve, Halloween**, Coombe Country Park (11am-12.30pm, 1-2.30pm, 3-4.30pm). Traditional activities that were around long before the trick-or-treat era. Fancy dress optional. Cost £5pp (under 5s free) – booking essential on 024 7645 3720.

29 – Juice-rassic Park, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (drop in any time between 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm). Join the fabulous artist Jim Morris as he helps you construct your own roaring dinosaur from an empty juice carton. Cost £1, payable on the door.

29 (also Oct 30 at Park Wood, 31 at Tile Hill Wood and November 4 at Wainbody Wood South) –

Wild Skills Week: Finding your way, Limbrick Wood (1.30-3.30pm). A fun and safe introduction for beginners to some essential bushcraft skills. Open to parent and child teams. Cost £2 or £1 Passport to Leisure and Learning – booking essential on 024 7645 3720. Meet at Limbrick Wood, Jardine Crescent. For Park Wood trekking event, meet at lay-by on Charter Avenue. For shelter building event at Tile Hill Wood, meet at layby on Banner Lane. For Wainbody Wood South fires, meet at lay-by on Stoneleigh Road.

30 (until November 2) – Come-and-make-a-saurus, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (drop in any time between 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm). A week of free, inspiring workshops inspired by the shape, colours and patterns of our prehistoric visitors from *Dinosaurs Uncovered*.

30 – Collection Conversations, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (11am-1pm). Drop into What's In Store and handle items from our natural history, archaeology and social history collections.

31 (until November 6) – Zippo's Circus, Hearsall Common. Zippo's Circus rolls back into town with a new for 2012 show. For more information, go to www.zippocircus.co.uk

31 – Rummage Through Time, Lunt Roman Fort (11am-4pm). Show how much

you know about Roman times by sorting out our jumble of objects. Free, but site entry fees apply. www.luntromanfort.org

NOVEMBER

2 – Disgusting Dinosaur Digestion, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (10.30am, 1pm & 2.30pm). Interactive talk led by the lively

palaeontologists of *Everything Dinosaur*. Find out what prehistoric animals ate, handle fossils, learn everything you could ever want to know about dinosaur digestion. Cost £1, payable at reception.

3 – Tennis Open Day, War Memorial Park (10am-noon). Open Morning for all adults and juniors. Book your free place by calling 024 7615 0688.

4 – Political unrest and regime change, the real Princess Diaries, Coombe Country Park (11.30am-1.30pm). A look into Coventry and Warwickshire links to the Gunpowder Plot of November 5, 1605. Cost £5pp. Booking essential on 024 7645 3720.

10 – Peaceful Poppies, Visitors' Centre, War Memorial Park (11am-1pm). Help commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Make poppies and other related arts and crafts. Cost £1.55 per child.

11 – Remembrance Sunday, War Memorial Park (11am-12.30pm). Civic representatives lead a parade from Spencer Park at 10.30am to the park for a service led by the Bishop of Coventry.

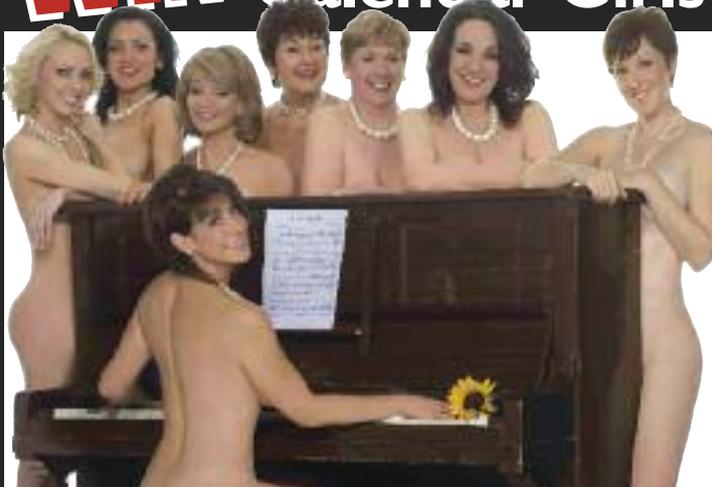
16 – Farmers Market, Broadgate (9am-3pm).

17 – Blitz Family Day, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (drop in any time between 10am-4pm). A free day for all the family, experiencing life during the Second World War and the Coventry Blitz.

18 – Film: The Extraordinary Adventures of Adele Blanc-Sec (cert U), Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (2pm, admission free). Set in early 20th century Paris, feisty young writer Adele Blanc-Sec embarks on a thrilling mission to Egypt to raid a tomb which supposedly contains a cure for her sick sister. French with English subtitles.

18 – Christmas Light Switch-on, Broadgate.

WIN Tickets for Calendar Girls



Hit West End show *Calendar Girls* makes its debut at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre from October 15-20, and *Citivision* has a pair of tickets up for grabs in our latest competition. The feel-good drama features an all-star line up including Lesley Joseph, Kacey Ainsworth, Camilla Dallerup, Helen Fraser, Sue Holderness, Deena Payne, Kathryn Rooney, Ruth Madoc and Kevin Sacre. It's based on the true story of a group of women who spark a global phenomenon by posing

nude for a charity calendar with a difference. The play is based on the 2003 film, starring Julie Walters and Helen Mirren. To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets for the first night, simply e-mail communications@coventry.gov.uk with the names of the two stars of the 2003 film. And don't forget to include your name and contact details. Tickets for *Calendar Girls* are available from the Belgrade's box office on 024 7655 3055 priced from £16.75 to £30.75 or via www.belgrade.co.uk.

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

DINOSAURS UNCOVERED

21 JULY 2012 – 6 JANUARY 2013

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I BABLAKE

Cllr David Galliers and Cllr David Kershaw CBE hold regular surgeries: Keresley surgery held at the Coronation Club, Keresley Road 12-1.00pm the first Saturday in the month. Allesley surgery held at Allesley Parish Church Hall, 5-6pm on the second Monday of the month. You can also contact them directly on the details below:
Cllr David Galliers: 07973 780871 or david.galliers@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr David Kershaw CBE: 024 7671 1107 or 07850 664576 or e-mail david.kershaw@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Andrew Williams: Call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail andrew.williams@coventry.gov.uk

I BINLEY & WILLENHALL

Cllr Dave Chater: For an appointment, call 024 7667 2619 or 07759 062733. Happy to make a home visit or e-mail dave.chater@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Ram P Lakha OBE: For an appointment, call 024 7683 1039. Happy to make a home visit. e-mail ram.lakha@btinternet.com or ram.lakha@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr John Mutton: Call 024 7683 2672 for an appointment or advice.

I CHEYLESMORE

Cllrs Foster and Noonan hold regular surgeries at the Cheylesmore Community Centre at 6.30-8pm on the last Wednesday of each month (Except December) and at Whitley Community Centre every second Saturday of the month between 1-2pm. You can also contact them directly on the details below.

Cllr Kevin Foster: Call 024 7683 1276 (daytime) or e-mail kevin.foster@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Hazel Noonan: Call 024 7683 1039 (daytime) or 024 7650 5109 (evenings), or e-mail hazel.noonan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Harjinder Singh Sehmi: Last Friday of the month at Cheylesmore Social Club, Quinton Park, 6-7pm or call for an appointment on 07507 687268 or 07956 491443 or e-mail harjinder.singhsehmi@coventry.gov.uk

I EARLSDON

Cllr Allan Andrews: Surgeries are held second Thursday of every month (except August), from 6-7pm at the West Orchard United Reformed Church, Baginton Road. Home visits also conducted. Call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail allan.andrews@coventry.gov.uk www.allanandrews.com or follow on twitter @allanandrews
Cllr Michael Hammon: Call 024 7644 8585 for an appointment or e-mail michael.hammon@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Ken Taylor OBE: Call 024 7667 3717 for an appointment.

I FOLESHILL

Cllr Tariq Khan: For an appointment, call 024 7683 1039 or 07415 534267 or e-mail tariq.khan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Abdul Salam Khan: Call 024 7683 1039 (Council House) or 07903 847160, or e-mail abdul.khan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Malkiat Auluck: 2nd Tuesday of the month 6.30pm-7.30pm at the Foleshill Community Centre, Foleshill Road, or call 024 7663 7965 for an appointment.

I HENLEY

Cllr Lynnette Kelly: Call 024 7671 1682 e-mail lynnette.kelly@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Kevin Maton: Call 07941 827229 e-mail kevin.maton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Ed Ruane: Call 07817 218137 e-mail ed.ruane@coventry.gov.uk. If there is something you need us to help with, call us or visit us at 4pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month at Moat House Leisure Centre, Winston Avenue, Henley Green.

I HOLBROOK

Cllr Joe Clifford: Every Weds 6.30-7.30pm

at Holbrook Community Care Association, Holbrooks Lane. Call 024 7646 5315 or e-mail joseph.clifford@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Rachel Lancaster: Call 024 7636 0021 or e-mail rachel.lancaster@coventry.gov.uk for an appointment.
Cllr Ann Lucas: Call 024 7633 2084 or 024 7683 1039 for a chat or appointment. Surgery on first Monday of each month 9.30-10.30am at Holbrook Health Centre, Wheelwright Lane.

I LONGFORD

Cllr Linda Bigham: First Friday of every month 3.30-4.30pm at the Longford Primary Care Centre, Longford Road, and 5.30-6.30pm at the Scout Headquarters, Aldermans Green Road. Last Friday of every month 6-7pm at St Thomas' Parish Church Hall, Longford Road. Please call 024 7636 0898 to a surgery appointment.
Cllr George Duggins: Second Saturday of every month 12-1pm at Bell Green Community Centre, Old Church Road and 1.15-2pm at Royal Hotel, Old Church Road. Second Sunday of every month 11.30am-1pm at Bell Green Club, Roseberry Avenue or call 024 7683 1003 (daytime) or e-mail george.duggins@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Lindsley Harvard: First Saturday of every month 10.45-11.45am at the Scout Hut, Aldermans Green Road and 12-1pm at the Bell Green Community Centre, Old Church Road. First Sunday of every month 11am-12 at the Church Hall, St Thomas' Parish Church, Longford Road, and 12.15-1.15pm at the Bell Green Club, Roseberry Avenue. Call 024 7667 5717, or e-mail lindsley.harvard@coventry.gov.uk

I LOWER STOKE

Cllr John McNicholas: If you have a problem, need help or advice, can visit you in your own home and can be contacted on 024 7683 1039 (daytime), 024 7650 4037 (evenings) or e-mail john.mcnicholas@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Phil Townshend: Call 024 7683 1034 (daytime) for details of dates and venues of surgeries or e-mail philip.townshend@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Catherine Miks: Call 024 7683 1039 or 07415 534274 or e-mail catherine.miks@coventry.gov.uk

I RADFORD

Cllr Mal Mutton: Call 024 7630 4497 or 024 7683 1039 for an appointment or e-mail mal.mutton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Keiran Mulhall: Every Tuesday at Jaguar Sports and Social Club, Middlemarch Road, 6.30-7.30pm. Also Radford Social Club on the first Sunday of the month 11.30am-12.30pm. Or call 024 7683 1039 for an appointment.
Cllr Tony Skipper: Available to see Radford residents at Coventry Coachmakers' Club, 72 Radford Road, CV1 4BY. For details and to make an appointment or to leave a message, call 024 7683 1039.

I ST MICHAEL'S

Cllr David Welsh: First Saturday of each month, 12-1pm at the Redeemed Christian Church of God (former Howitzer Club), Albert Street. Third Friday of each month, 3-4pm at the Regeneration Office, 121-124 Far Gosford Street. Call 07956 307 437 or e-mail david.welsh@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Naem Akhtar: For an appointment call 07747 003141 or e-mail naem.akhtar@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Jim O'Boyle: Second Saturday of each month, 12-1pm at Zeenat Restaurant, Cambridge Street, Hillfields, fourth Saturday of month, noon at Transport House, Short Street. Call 024 7669 4873 or 024 7683 1032, or e-mail jim.o'boyle@coventry.gov.uk

I SHERBOURNE

Cllr Seamus Walsh: Call 07956 546983 or 024 7683 1039 (Council House), or e-mail seamus.walsh@coventry.gov.uk

Cllr Alison Gingell:

For an appointment call 07541 741617 or e-mail alison.gingell@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Damian Gannon: For an appointment call 07725 536259 or e-mail damian.gannon@coventry.gov.uk

I UPPER STOKE

Cllr Kamran Caan: Happy to make a home visit. For an appointment call 07730 111101 or e-mail kamran.caan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Sucha Bains: Barras Green Social Club, Coventry Street, between noon-12.45pm every first and third Saturday or call 024 7645 9484.
Cllr Colleen Fletcher: For an appointment text 07939 111992, (will be happy to call you back) or call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail colleen.fletcher@coventry.gov.uk

I WAINBODY

Cllr John Blundell: Call 024 7683 1276 (weekdays) or 024 7641 9794 (evenings and weekends), or e-mail john.blundell@coventry.gov.uk for an appointment; will gladly visit.
Cllr Gary Crookes: (Deputy Lord Mayor) For an appointment, call 024 7683 3048 (daytime) or 024 7646 1777 (after 6pm) or e-mail gary.crookes@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Tim Sawdon: (Lord Mayor) Call 024 7683 3100 (daytime) or 024 7641 5771 (after 6pm).

I WESTWOOD

Cllr Maya Ali: For an appointment call 074155 34273 or e-mail maya.ali@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr David Skinner: Call 024 7683 1039 (Council House) or 024 7646 8106 (out of hours) or e-mail david.skinner@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Richard Sandy: Surgeries will be held at The Lime Tree Club, Templar Avenue second Saturday of the month from 12-1pm and every fourth Saturday of the month from 11.30am-12.30pm at Canley Library, Prior Deram Walk. For an appointment please call 07949 900445 or e-mail richard.sandy@coventry.gov.uk

I WHOBERLEY

Cllr Dan Howells: If you require help or advice, can visit you in your home. To arrange an appointment call 07540 083974 or e-mail dan.howells@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Jayne Innes: Call 02476 40 5132 for an appointment or email jayne.innes@coventry.gov.uk

Cllr Bally Singh:

Regular Surgeries are held every third Saturday of the month 10am-noon at the St Mary Magdeline Centre, Sir Thomas White Road. Also morning chat every first Friday of the month 8.30-9am at Stoke Bakery, Allesley Park. Call 07779 256898 for an appointment, or e-mail bally.singh@coventry.gov.uk

I WOODLANDS

Cllr Patricia Hetherton and Cllr Steven Thomas hold regular surgeries on the 4th Friday of each month at Tile Hill Library, Jardine Crescent from 5-7pm
Cllr Patricia Hetherton: Please call 07985 811881 for an appointment or e-mail patricia.hetherton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Steven Thomas: For an appointment call my residents' hotline 07535 423796 or email steven.thomas@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Julia Lepoidevin: For an appointment, call 024 7683 1039 (daytime) or e-mail julia.lepoidevin@coventry.co.uk

I WYKEN

Cllr Robert Thay: For an appointment call 07875 031851 or email robert.thay@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Faye Abbott: For an appointment call 07944 996294 or e-mail faye.abbott@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Hazel Sweet: For an appointment or home visit call 024 7661 6273 or e-mail hazel.sweet@coventry.gov.uk
 You can visit your ward councillors every Friday 6.30 - 7.30pm at Wyken Working Men's Club, Ansty.

Cabinet Members

Cllr John Mutton, Leader
 Policy, Leadership and Governance
Cllr George Duggins, Deputy Leader
 Strategic Finance and Resources
Cllr Ann Lucas,
 Health and Community Services
Cllr David Kershaw CBE - Education
Cllr Lynnette Kelly - City Development
Cllr Lindsley Harvard - City Services
Cllr Ed Ruane - Neighbourhood
 Action, Housing, Leisure and Culture
Cllr Jim O'Boyle
 Children and Young People
Cllr Phil Townshend
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Cllr Abdul Khan Sustainability and
 Local Infrastructure

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 C Cllr Howells DC Cllr Sandy
 C = Chair DC = Deputy Chair

Coventry MPs

Bob Ainsworth MP
 Coventry North East
 Call 024 7622 6707
 e-mail ainsworthr@parliament.uk
Jim Cunningham MP
 Coventry South
 Call 024 7655 3159
 e-mail emmal.davies@parliament.uk
Geoffrey Robinson MP
 Coventry North West
 Call 024 7625 7870
 e-mail robinsong@parliament.uk

European MPs

West Midlands Region

CONSERVATIVE - Malcolm Harbour, Philip Bradbourn, 285 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7EL. Call 01676 530621, or 01676 530297
LABOUR - Michael Cashman. Terry Duffy House, Thomas Street, West Bromwich B70 6NT. Call 0121 569 1923
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - Phil Bennion. Haunton Manor Farm, Haunton, Tamworth M79 9HN
UKIP - Mike Natrass. 123 New John Street, Birmingham, B6 4LD. Call 0121 333 7737
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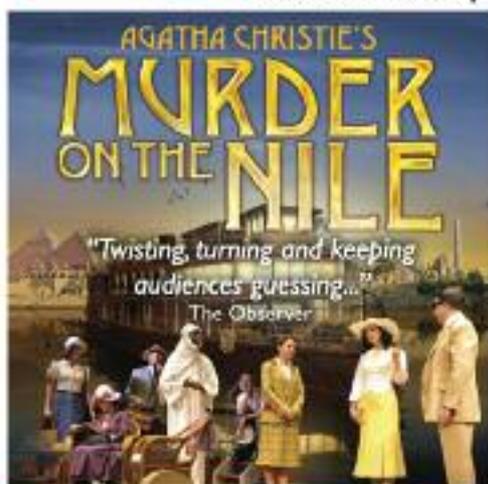
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Calendar Girls by Tina Frith

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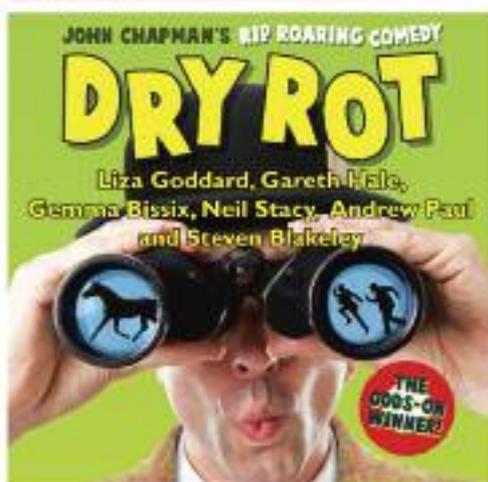


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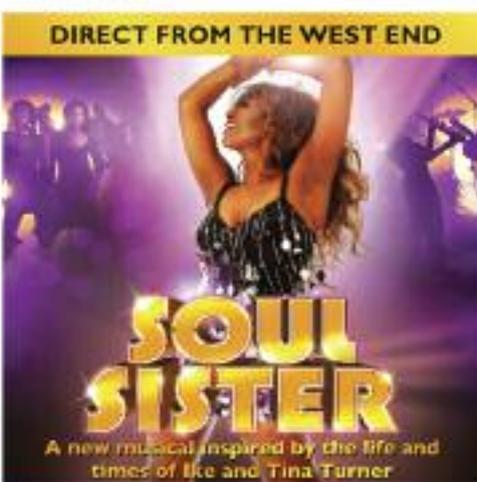
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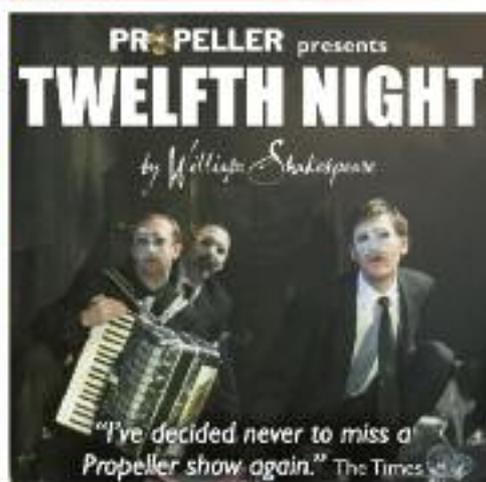


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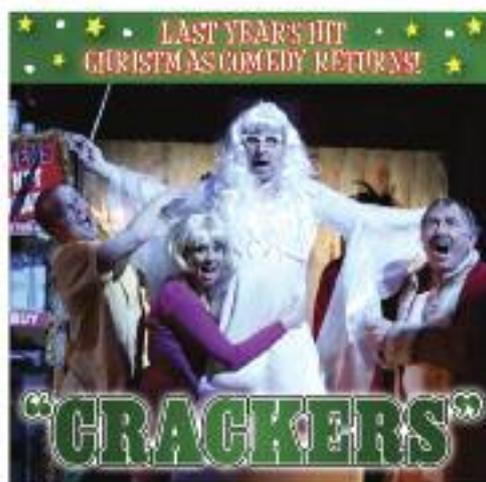
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