

# citivision

## INSIDE Christmas on the home front in 1914

They said it would be all over by Christmas 1914, but the horrors of the Great War are still with us 100 years later...

\* Picture: The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

● See What's On pages for details of First World War centenary exhibition.

## PLUS

● 2-page late-night shopping special

● Cycle routes joy for city bikers

● WIN tickets for Wasps' Ricoh clash

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

issue 49 | december | 2014

# WHO INSPIRES YOU TO BE A BETTER PERSON?



Coventry Telegraph

PRIDE of  
COVENTRY  
& WARWICKSHIRE  
AWARDS 2015

In association with



We are inviting nominations from **Telegraph** readers who recognise those inspiring others through their actions.

Final closing date for nominations  
20 January 2015

## AWARD CATEGORIES\*

- Carer of the Year Award
- Child/Teenager of Courage
- Emergency Services Award
- Fundraiser of the Year
- Local Champion Award
- Outstanding Bravery
- Teacher of the Year Award
- Young Achiever Award
- Volunteer of the Year

\*Suggested categories



Our host  
Fiona Phillips

For more information or to nominate visit  
[www.coventrytelegraph.net/prideofcov](http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/prideofcov)  
**#prideofcov**

## OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

NAME OF YOUR NOMINEE:

THEIR AGE:

AWARD CATEGORY:

CONTACT TEL FOR NOMINEE (if you have it)

WHY DO THEY DESERVE THE AWARD?

(Please include as much detail as possible and continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

YOUR NAME:

YOUR DAYTIME TEL NO:

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please complete and return to us by 20 January 2015 - F.A.O. Claire Parker,  
Pride of Coventry Awards, BPM Media (Midlands) Floor 6, Fort Dunlop,  
Fort Parkway, Birmingham, B24 8PT.  
If you have any queries please contact Claire on 0121 234 5236



We're celebrating the truly heroic of Coventry and Warwickshire whose courage and compassionate actions must be recognised. Join us at a star-studded ceremony on Friday 20 March 2015 at Coventry Cathedral.





● A personal message from Cllr Ann Lucas OBE, Leader, Coventry City Council.

## Crucial choices on the 2015 horizon

It's hard to believe Christmas and a new year is nearly upon us again. 2014 has been a pretty eventful year in Coventry with both big challenges and great opportunities.

We've had plenty to celebrate this year, including welcoming the Irish President and Prince William here for very special visits, enjoying our best ever Godiva Festival, and giving the crew of HMS Diamond Freedom of the City on a sparkling Autumn day.

We've seen our city centre improvements begin to encourage new investors and businesses here, we've celebrated our Ring Road's 40th birthday in style, we've seen work on a new business district for the city centre at Friargate get well underway and our young people are doing much better in our primary schools than they were a couple of years ago.

Next year will, I suspect, be even busier! We want Coventry to be a top-ten city again, and that means making some very big decisions about growing our city and working more closely with our neighbours to get a bigger slice of government funding at a time when we're coping with massive spending cuts.

We'll make the decisions that are best for the city, its people and the future. Coventry is a unique and very special city, and nothing will ever change that.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a very happy new year.

\*You can write to Ann at The Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RR, or e-mail her at [ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ann.lucas@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](mailto:communications@coventry.gov.uk)

**Cover story:** Young visitors get hands-on experience at the First World War exhibition at Coventry's Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. For details and dates of **The Great War, Coventry's Story**, check out the What's On listings on pages 20-21.

## A personal message from Ken Sloan, chair of the Coventry Partnership...

I chaired my first Coventry Partnership meeting in November, where partners discussed our priority 'Growing the City and Tackling Poverty' and explored what success for the city would look like. We all recognised that it is important that we use the collective resources and experience of partners to address this priority by supporting one another's work and striving to systematically and sustainably improve life within the city, while tackling difficult and challenging issues as they arise.

On a wonderful note, our city's universities have been showcased in the Times and SundayTimes Good University Guide. Coventry has been named as University of the Year for Student Experience and has retained its title as Modern University of the Year for the second consecutive year. Warwick has been named University of the Year – which is especially good news as the University celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2015.



\* Ken Sloan, chair of the Coventry Partnership.



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## contact us

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

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# 'Threat to services for next five years'

## Finance chief highlights the perils of continued government cuts

Coventry City Council has warned that continued government spending cuts will affect services across the city for the next five years.

The senior councillor in charge of finance at the Council, Cllr Damian Gannon, says councillors will have to take some difficult decisions about services as they set next year's budget.

Government spending cuts will see the Council's budget gap increase to £65million by 2017 – with the Council losing around half its annual grant from government since 2010.

The Council is already making savings through reducing the workforce and the number of Council buildings across the city, better use of technology and reviewing services across the organisation, but Cllr Gannon says more savings need to be found before the Council can deliver

**'Over the coming couple of months councillors will be looking at the detail of options being developed by council officers to help us meet the budget gap...'**

a balanced budget next February.

Cllr Gannon said: "We're facing some stark choices over the coming months, and it's important we're honest with residents about these choices. There's no doubt people will be losing services they've come to take for granted.

"But we're absolutely determined to use scarce resources to make sure our most vulnerable residents – children and old people alike – continue to be protected. At the same time we'd be failing Coventry people if we didn't continue to invest in the city and its future.

We're beginning to see the results of our work over the past few years to improve the city centre's appearance, develop a new business district for Coventry at Friargate and link with organisations to bring jobs here.

"Our new customer services centre in Broadgate opens next year and will bring lots of Council services in one place, which both saves money and is better for residents.

"But in other areas we will be making decisions that will mean reducing or cutting services completely. Over the coming couple of months councillors will be looking at the detail of options being developed by Council officers to help us meet the budget gap, but they'll have very little choice about where to make cuts."

## Get your head into the Cloud app for the best in city-centre shopping deals

A project to help city centre independent retailers promote special discount offers to shoppers via the web is likely to be rolled out across the city centre.

Coventry shoppers can sign up to the special discount scheme on the web. When they are near a shop that is signed up to the scheme, the customer can benefit with offers being sent to their phone.

Consumers can

also log on to the website from home to view offers and use the click and collect service.

Points are collected for joining the scheme, visiting zones within the city centre, responding to phone notifications, viewing details on offers and using Click and Collect



■ Promoting the new app are (from left) Councillor Kevin Maton, Jackie Logan of Silver Glade Jewellery and Mick McLaughlin of Serious Games International.

to reserve an item on-line.

There is a prize to be won at the end of the trial for the customer that builds up the most points.

The Coventry Cloud was trialed with a 'pop up shop' open in City Arcade until the end of November.

The scheme works via a website and free App,

developed by Serious Games International, and uses the latest beacon technology in the city centre to push offer notification messages from businesses to customers on their phones.

A variety of independent retailers are on board for the trial.

## New service for benefits claimants

An appointment-only service for people who claim housing benefit and council tax support has been introduced by the Council.

Following a successful 'pilot' scheme, people who want to claim housing benefit or council tax support need to book an appointment. Tim Savill, who manages the process, said: "In the past people followed a 'ticket and wait' process. Now customers arrive and are seen almost immediately and the feedback from them is positive. This means we have been able to assess benefit claims more quickly."

In exceptional circumstances, for example in cases of immediate eviction or where there are vulnerability issues, staff will see customers without an appointment. However, they will have to wait until a member of staff is free to see them. Cllr Damian Gannon, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, said he wanted to ensure that there remained a safety net for more vulnerable claimants: "In these cases we would aim to see people without needing an appointment."

The new process means that the service will:

- See customers at a time that suits them and will mean that they do not have to experience significant waiting times;
- Record the purpose of the visit at the time of booking the appointment and ensure the customer knows what information to bring with them;
- Allocate a dedicated officer who will prepare for the appointment;
- Complete the benefit claim during the interview where possible.

You can e-mail to arrange an appointment via [benefits@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@coventry.gov.uk) or by calling 024 7683 1800. Appointments can also be made by speaking to the receptionist in the Housing centre in Spire House, New Union Street.

## Sharks add bite to the opening programme for Wasps

Rugby Union giants Wasps kick off their new life at the Ricoh Arena on Sunday, December 21, with their Aviva Premiership clash against London Irish.

The club then entertains Sale Sharks in the Aviva Premiership on January 4, and Leinster Rugby in the

European Rugby Champions Cup the following weekend.

Rugby fans across the region are expected to flock to the venue with Wasps having made the switch from London to the Ricoh Arena.

Club skipper James Haskell said: "Everyone at Wasps is really looking forward to playing our first game at the Ricoh and getting stuck in against the Exiles. The Ricoh is a world-class venue, with incredible facilities both on and off

the field, and we feel very privileged to be able to call it our new home."

Council leader Cllr Ann Lucas said: "Wasps' decision to make their home here is really important for the city and its future. They have some really exciting plans for community and grassroots development that will bring massive benefits to Coventry youngsters."

For ticket information, visit [www.wasps.co.uk](http://www.wasps.co.uk)

**WIN!** ...tickets to Wasps' first match at the Ricoh

Citivism has two tickets up for grabs in a competition to mark the Wasps' first match at the Ricoh Arena on Sunday, December 21. To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following question:

**Q. Who is the captain of Wasps?**

Send your reply to [communications@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:communications@coventry.gov.uk) by no later than Friday, December 12. The first correct entry pulled from the sack after the above date will be the winner. Don't forget to include your contact details with your entry.



Wasps' ambassador Paul Sackey (front) meets local youngsters to showcase the club's free tickets offer, along with Councillors David Kershaw and Abdul Khan either side of the club's mascot. More than 10,000 free tickets for three of the Wasps' first four games at the Ricoh Arena have been made available for

Coventry schools and rugby clubs. Working in partnership with Coventry Sports Network, Coventry Sports Foundation and Warwickshire RFU, Wasps is distributing free tickets to the clashes against London Irish on Sunday, December 21, and Sale Sharks on January 4, as well as the LV= Cup match against Cardiff Blues on February 1.

## Website update's doing the business

The Council's new website is helping residents find information about services more easily – and making it simple to do business with the Council online.

The new site – [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk) – has been completely rewritten to make sure there's no baffling jargon. Work is also underway to create user accounts so people can access Council services that previously needed a phone call, or even a trip to a Council office.

Councillor Damian Gannon, Cabinet Member for Resources said: "We'll be putting more services online over the coming months to meet growing demand. Of course, some customers will need to speak to us face to face or over the phone, so next September we'll be opening a new customer services centre in Broadgate House that will bring Council services together in one place."

# How to avoid a cabby 'carry on'

The chair of the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee is encouraging students at Warwick and Coventry universities to report their experiences of taxi travel in the city.

A new postcard being shared among students encourages passengers to report their experience – both positive and negative – to Coventry's taxi licensing team.

Student representatives from both universities are supporting the information campaign and say the more information students have will enable both taxi drivers and passengers to avoid any misunderstanding when either flagging a black



■ Highlighting the taxi campaign are (from left) Marvin Nkemdirim of Coventry University, Councillors Pat Hetherton and Phil Townshend, and Rob Anckorn of the University of Warwick.

hackney carriage or booking a private-hire vehicle.

Cllr Pat Hetherton, chair of the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee, said: "It is clear that there is often a misunderstanding about how taxi fares are calculated and young people gave a mixed review of their experiences.

"For example, if the taxi journey crosses a border between Coventry and Warwickshire drivers can refuse or charge any price provided the amount is mutually agreed before the journey starts."

The Safer Student Travel advice card also reminds people that they can hail a black cab taxi when it is being driven along the street, but they need to pre-book a private hire vehicle.

Rob Anckorn, from University of Warwick Students' Union, said: "It's great that we have been able to work with the local authority and together can highlight the strengths and challenges that students have with taxi travel in the city and across into Warwick."

## It's a vicious circle! Dodgy deals help to fund theft and drugs trade

People who buy stolen goods are inadvertently adding to the city's drugs problem, police have warned.

In a twin-pronged crackdown on shoplifting and the drugs trade, West Midlands Police are urging the public not to buy stolen goods, thereby helping the thief to fund their taste for illegal highs.

Superintendent Rich Baker, of West Midlands Police, said people who buy stolen goods should think about what they're really funding.

"Threequarters of all people who are brought into custody and test positive for drugs have been arrested on suspicion of thefts from shops or market stalls," he said. "If they hadn't been caught, they would have sold those goods and used the money to buy more drugs."

West Midlands Police investigate around 16,200 thefts each year from shops and stalls, the equivalent of one in 10 of every crime recorded in the county.

For CCTV footage of suspected shoplifters police want to track down, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/westmidlandspolice](http://www.flickr.com/photos/westmidlandspolice)

To report a shoplifter, share information on where they're selling stolen goods or to give details of people buying from them, call police on 101.

In addition, Crimestoppers will pass information on to police anonymously if contacted on 0800 555 111. Callers can also claim a reward if a suspect is arrested and charged.

## Street team on standby to aid the city's needy

**A new mental health service designed to help people on the street who need immediate support has been launched in Coventry.**

Street triage schemes see mental health nurses accompany police officers to incidents where police believe people need immediate mental health support.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, working with NHS Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Coventry City Council Public Health Services, is now funding a street triage service in the city. The Coventry Police and Crime Board has also contributed financially, using some of its Community Safety Funds provided by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The aim is to ensure people get the medical attention they need as quickly as possible. The scheme, launched on Monday, December 1, operates from 5pm-2am, seven days a week. West Midlands Ambulance Service and out-of-hours NHS services are also actively involved in establishing the new service.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust chief executive Rachel Newson said: "The most important thing is to do all we can to help people experiencing a mental health crisis. Where this scheme has been introduced in other areas, it has been very successful in supporting people in very difficult circumstances."

West Midlands Police chief inspector Sean Russell said: "This scheme has led to marked improvements in the treatment given to members of the public who need our help, a significant cut in the use of police stations as places of safety, and a reduction in demand on the police and the healthcare system."

Cllr Phil Townshend, chair of Coventry Police and Crime Board, said: "There is a real need for this sort of pro-active intervention, and the skills that mental health nurses bring will be invaluable."

## Flower-power success is so meadow sweet



Councillor Rachel Lancaster stands amid the stunning display of wildflowers along the central reservation of the A45 between Green Lane and the Leamington Road island, which has landed the city a top environmental award. The beautiful wildflowers are not only bringing some countryside into the city, but they have also brought Coventry a Green Apple Gold Award from the Green Organisation. Councillor Lancaster said it was wonderful achievement for the city.

## Residents lead campaign on anti-social behaviour

New measures to give victims and communities a say in the way anti-social behaviour is dealt with have been launched in Coventry.

Community Trigger, launched under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, enables victims and communities to request a review of their case, if they are not satisfied with progress. Once the request is processed this would bring agencies together to take a joined-up, problem-solving approach to find a solution.

Cllr Phil Townshend, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, said: "The Community Trigger is an important power that enables residents to make a complaint that can be thoroughly reviewed."

Tests needed to invoke the Community Trigger process are as follows:

- One person has reported three separate incidents relating to the same problem in past six months **OR**;
- One person reported one incident or crime motivated by hate in the last six months and no action has been taken **OR**;
- At least five people have made reports about the same problem in the past six months and no action has been taken.

People can ask for an ongoing incident to be reviewed by calling 0500 834 333 or e-mailing [community.trigger@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:community.trigger@coventry.gov.uk)

## Comic heroes highlight darker side of winter



Batman may have had Robin to help him rid Gotham's streets of criminals, but West Midlands Police has a greater force ... the local community!

In a move away from traditional police advice, online motion comics are being used by the force to show the 'heroic' ways people are joining in the fight against crime.

Thousands of comic strip-style posters and leaflets are being

shared across Coventry which stress the importance of reporting crimes and suspicious behaviour so that officers can take action.

With its own dedicated website, *The Dark Nights Return* campaign aims to cut crimes which traditionally rise when the clocks go back.

For security tips, safety advice and more information on the campaign visit [www.westmidsheroes.com](http://www.westmidsheroes.com)

To sign-up or be part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme near you visit [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)



## Line up for the city's half marathon

Entries are now open for the Decathlon Coventry Half Marathon which will be returning to the city on March 1, 2015. The 13.1-mile run will start and finish at Millennium Place and will take runners on closed roads through a loop of Coventry's city centre and out into the beautiful countryside, culminating in a great downhill stretch for the final stages of the run. Decathlon Coventry will return as the headline sponsor for 2015, Stroke Association will remain the official charity partner and Myton Hospices have been named as official local charity partner. Councillor Abdul Khan,

Cabinet Member for Events, said: "It's important to get the 2015 event date out into people's diaries as early as possible as it provides plenty of time for people to plan their training and make sure they sign up for Coventry's event."

Race organisers GO2, who are working in partnership with the Council to deliver the event, are hopeful of smashing the total of more than 2,000 people who took part in last year's race. Businesses can also sign up to take part in the company challenge and a schools challenge. To find out more or to register for the run go to [www.coventryhalf.com](http://www.coventryhalf.com)

# The shape of sport to come!

## Council and FA on target at Holbrooks



■ Councillor Joe Clifford opens the new facilities, watched by (from left) Oliver Hitchcock of Birmingham County FA, Chloe Guy of Sky Blues in the Community, Cllr Rachel Lancaster, Jane and John Connolly of Coventrians FC, former Coventry City favourite David Busst, now of Sky Blues in the Community, and Alfie Callender, aged nine, and Daryl Assafauh, aged seven, both of Coventrians FC.

Six new football pitches and brand new changing facilities have been opened in Holbrooks Park as part of a joint improvement project with the Council, the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund.

Improvements include a two room changing room with referee and storage facilities in a central location in the park, security fencing and CCTV and two senior and four junior (9v9) grass pitches which include drainage to increase playability. There will also be a

Football Development Programme run on site, as part of the Coventry Sports Strategy 2014 - 2024.

The Council worked in partnership with a number of partners to secure a grant of £242,660 following an application to replace facilities that were damaged through a previous arson attack. Council officers worked closely with Football League representatives, ward councillors and the FA to develop plans for the site which is now open and home to Coventrians FC.

## United approach set to be a matchwinner

A new Coventry Sports Network has been set up to deliver and lead the Coventry Sports Strategy for the next 10 years.

The sports network will work with sporting and community groups to improve sporting structures and increase opportunities for people to take part in sport.

Part of the city's sports strategy includes a Coventry Institute of Sport to provide early specialist support services for talented local athletes, and also proposals to support sports clubs, venues and schools to secure investment into their community sports facilities.

The CSN represents a partnership between Coventry City Council, the Coventry Sports Foundation, Coventry Sports Trust, Coventry University, the University of Warwick and Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Sport (CSW Sport).

The key priorities are to increase participation of children and young people in sport, to raise the number of female participants and further encourage and promote sporting



■ Sporting partners: (back row) Tony Costello of CSW Sport, Paul Breed of Coventry Sports Foundation, (front) Vince Mayne of Coventry University, Council leader Cllr Ann Lucas and Cllr Abdul Khan.

**'We are already seeing results of this strategy as it has helped us to bring in over £215k from the Sport England Community Sport Activation Fund...'**

opportunities for disabled people, along with the aim of using sporting activity to improve people's overall health.

Cllr Abdul Khan said: "We are already seeing

results of this strategy as it has helped us to bring in over £215k from the Sport England Community Sport Activation Fund, for the #Ucan project, which is currently helping more people in Foleshill to become active through taking part in sport."

Further details of the Coventry Sports Network can be found on the website at [www.covsport.org.uk](http://www.covsport.org.uk) or by following on Twitter @covsport.

## HMS Diamond crew sparkle at Freedom march past



HMS Diamond's ship's company marched into Coventry to receive their Freedom of Entry to the city honour. Commander Andy Ingham, a

former Commander of HMS Diamond, received the Freedom Scroll at a ceremony outside the Council House. The ship's crew also

visited University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, Jaguar Land Rover and the Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick.

## Scene shifts to welcome increase in turnover at Belgrade

**The Belgrade Theatre's commercial set building company has achieved record turnover this year, increasing its earnings from £311,822 in 2012/13 to £414,638 in 2013/14.**

Belgrade Theatre Enterprises Ltd now account for 60 per cent of the Belgrade's annual income, marking a 10 per cent increase since 2011/12. The news is part of a bid by the theatre (pictured right) to become less reliant on public funding.

Belgrade executive director Joanna Reid said: "We are very proud of the success that the theatre has achieved.

"It has resulted in the Belgrade now being recognised as one of the leading producing theatres of the country."

The theatre is also a national leader in education through targeted work with young people and local communities.

Over the last year, nearly 10,000 children, young people and adults aged 50-plus participated in workshops carried out via the Belgrade Community and Education Company.

### Theatre's festive treat for the less fortunate

Coventry's Belgrade Theatre is again asking people to dig deep in support of families facing financial hardship at Christmas. The venue's Give the Gift of Theatre Campaign aims to provide at least 400 people, referred through Coventry Foodbanks with tickets to a performance of *Aladdin*. And to spread the magic of panto even further, the Belgrade is asking the public to help raise £11,000 by Friday, December 12. To make a donation, call 024 7684 6758 or visit [www.localgiving.com/charity/belgradetheatre](http://www.localgiving.com/charity/belgradetheatre). Tickets for *Aladdin*, featuring Iain Lauchlan (pictured below) are available at the box office on 024 7655 3055 (£13.50-£22.25, concessions from £10.50). Family tickets are priced from £36 to £62. Cheaper tickets can be purchased online via [www.belgrade.co.uk](http://www.belgrade.co.uk).



## Drumming up recruits for band

A call has gone out for new young recruits to join the City of Coventry Corps of Drums. The Corps, which was founded in 1947 and has performed throughout the country, is looking to the future and needs new members – boys and young men aged eight to 21 – to play a drum or trumpet. It doesn't matter if you can play an instrument or not, the only requirement is enthusiasm and a desire to learn. If you're interested, contact Commanding Officer Myles Nottingham on 024 7646 0772 or email [info@coventrycorpsofdrums.org.uk](mailto:info@coventrycorpsofdrums.org.uk). You can also visit [www.coventrycorpsofdrums.org.uk/](http://www.coventrycorpsofdrums.org.uk/) for details.

## Uni strikes gold

The University of Warwick celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2015 with a series of exciting events on campus and beyond. The first group of undergraduate students was admitted in October 1965 – there were just 450 of them, compared to around 4,000 undergraduates who joined the university this autumn. Among events to celebrate the anniversary will be the Golden Festival of Music on May 21-23 and the Festival of the Imagination on October 16-17, both in and around Warwick Arts Centre. To find out more, visit [www.warwick.ac.uk/about/warwick50](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/about/warwick50)

■ The University of Warwick has been named *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year 2015 – and also rose two places to eighth in the UK in the Good University Guide league table. Meanwhile, Coventry University landed the title of Modern University of the Year.

## Peace footnote

Thérèse Mema Mapenzi from the Justice and Peace Commission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is this year's International Peace Prize winner.

The Peace Prize recognises those with a passion for reconciliation and a determination to change their communities for the better. Thérèse, who works to support people who have suffered the trauma of sexual violence, was praised for providing a safe place and a voice for those affected.



Construction of the new bridge deck at Junction 6 of the Coventry Ring Road has reached a major landmark, with the final delivery and installation of the steel beams that will form part of the support structure of Warwick Road and the pedestrian boulevard.

A large section had already been formed following the first installation in September, and this next phase finally shows the full span of the bridge deck. In total, a further 11 pairs of 30-40m long, 40 tonne beams were installed.

Cllr Rachel Lancaster, Cabinet Member for Public Services, said: "We have already made enormous progress on this project with these beams in place we finally have a true impression of the sheer size and footprint of the scheme." The completion date is planned for is the spring. Work on the bridge deck is funded by Regional Growth Fund and European Regional Development Fund grant investment.

# Beams bridge Ring Road gap

 Regional Growth Fund



## NEWSbite

### Disabled care steps up a gear

Improved lifelong support for disabled people in Coventry is the aim of a new service launched by the Council and partners.

The Council and health colleagues have created an integrated All Age Disability service by bringing together a number of teams to improve support for disabled people at different stages of their lives. The service will focus on supporting children and adults with complex disabilities grouped into three age brackets – 0-14, 15-25 and 26+.

It aims to provide co-ordinated multi-agency care which is tailored to residents' needs. The new 15-25 age group transitions team will focus on supporting young people to prepare for adulthood.

Councillor Alison Gingell, the Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, said: "The service will help people live more independently and reduce the need for admissions to specialist placements."

## High days at Highfield Road recalled



A plaque to mark the 106-year tenure of Coventry City Football Club at the old Highfield Road football ground has been unveiled in Signet Square.

Two descendants of former City players Mark Rideout and Alec Mercer, along with Lionel Bird, Coventry City FC historian, met with present-day supporters at

the site to mark the occasion and bring back many memories. Rideout scored the first goal at Highfield Road back in 1899, and Mercer the first Football League goal at the ground by a Coventry City player. The plaque is situated in Signet Square, off Thackhall Street, Hillfields.

## Can you name your local gem?

In March 2015, West Midlands Police will be holding its third annual Diamond Awards ceremony.

The annual awards have been put in place to allow the general public, officers, staff, and partners to recognise and reward members of the police family who have acted above and beyond what is expected of them. Do you know any



individuals and teams that over the last 12 months have made a significant contribution in helping make the West Midlands a safer place to live, work and visit? To enter, complete the electronic nomination form. Alternatively you can download and print a nomination form off the West Midlands Police website at [www.west-midlands.police.uk/keeping-you-safe/about-us/diamond-awards/index.aspx](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/keeping-you-safe/about-us/diamond-awards/index.aspx)

## Debt warning

Coventry Citizens' Advice Bureau has launched its Christmas money campaign, with a call for people to avoid a debt hangover in the New Year.

The bureau sees an increase in clients seeking debt advice in January, after the festivities are over. They are encouraging people to decide how much they can afford and to seek advice as early as possible if they are getting into difficulties. Useful tips include:

- **Be realistic** and budget accordingly;
- **Remember** to pay everyday bills like rent, the mortgage, utility bills, food bills and other existing debts;
- **Don't** take out a pay-day loan or use a loan shark;
- **Shop around** for best prices;
- **Be organised** – there's a lot to remember at Christmas. If you've borrowed money don't forget that it won't be long before you have to make a payment. Make sure you pay on time, even if it is only the minimum, or you will be faced with additional charges.



**COMING SOON**

## Join the Coventry Recycling Club

Collect points when recycling improves in your area.

Use your points to have a positive impact on your community by supporting local charities and groups of your choice.

**Win treats for yourself with loads of prizes up for grabs**



Find out more and pre-register now by visiting  
[www.coventry.gov.uk/recyclingclub](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/recyclingclub)

## Christmas and New Year 2014/15 collection dates



Week beginning 15 December – all green (general waste) and blue (recycling) lidded bins collected so you go into the holiday period with empty bins

Week beginning Monday 22 December – no collections

Week beginning Monday 29 December – green lidded bins only this week

If your green lidded (household waste) bin is scheduled for collection on:

Tuesday 30 December – it will be collected as usual

Wednesday 31 December – it will be collected as usual

Thursday 1 January – it will be collected on Friday 2 January

Friday 2 January – it will be collected on Saturday 3 January

Week beginning Monday 5 January – we will collect all green and blue lidded bins. Please use the clear sacks provided for your extra recycling

From week beginning Monday 12 January please refer to the calendar

# City toasts still more top schools

The number of good or outstanding primary schools in Coventry has surged by 32 per cent in just two years.

In 2012, Ofsted reported that just 42 per cent of the city's 84 primary schools were ranked in the top two categories – the smallest proportion in England.

A new strategy was launched to fuel major improvements in school performance and latest figures show the proportion of schools now judged good or better by Ofsted has risen to almost 74 per cent.

City primary schools also reported record levels of 11-year-old pupils achieving Level 4 and above – the government-expected standard – in their Key Stage 2 SATs.

Results showed pupils' reading (87 per cent), writing (83 per cent) and mathematics (84 per cent) attainment at the expected Level 4+, and writing (31 per cent) and mathematics (39 per cent) attainment at the higher Level 5+, are the highest in the city's history.

## New primary school for city

Sidney Stringer Primary Academy will open in Hillfields for 60 reception-aged pupils in September 2015.

A prospectus and details of plans for the new school are available on the school's website at [www.sidneystringerprimary.org.uk](http://www.sidneystringerprimary.org.uk)

The school is offering places for children born between September 1, 2010, and August 31, 2011.

For September 2015 entrants only, people will need to apply to Sidney Stringer Primary Academy at [www.sidneystringerprimary.org.uk](http://www.sidneystringerprimary.org.uk) by March 6, 2015, and to the Council at [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk) by January 13, 2015.

Emma McCann, currently deputy headteacher at Stockton Primary School in Warwickshire, has been appointed to the post of principal designate and will take up her new post in January 2015.

Emma said: "I look forward to welcoming the first intake of reception children and to developing strong local links with parents and carers in the coming months."



year and is in line with the national average of 60 per cent.

Councillor David Kershaw, the Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "The quality of teaching and learning in our primary schools is getting better and better."

John Gulson Primary School (pictured), in George Street, was one of the highest fliers in the city, with 72.7 per cent of their 88

## ...and tots off to flying start

Children are leaving reception classrooms across Coventry's schools with improving levels of development, new figures have revealed.

Nearly 60 per cent of 4,293 reception pupils in

2013/14 left their first year of education either meeting or exceeding expected levels in maths, literacy, communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development.

The so-called 'good level of development' rose by 4.1 per cent compared to last

reception children meeting or exceeding expected standards. This is made more remarkable by the fact that around 90 per cent of pupils have English as a second language.

Headteacher Shaukat Hussain said: "It is wonderful to see the positive result of their efforts."



■ The Lord Mayor Cllr Noonan is joined by her son and consort Christopher (back row, second left), a former pupil of the school, to see progress on the scheme. With them are the headteacher and deputy head, the chair of governors, the site manager and pupils.

## Lord Mayor gives her seal of approval

Pupils have been celebrating the final phase of Whitley Abbey Primary School's Extending Pupil Places building project.

Lord Mayor Cllr Hazel Noonan joined staff and students at the school to see the roof placed on the new school building.

Whitley Abbey Primary School is one of five schools in the latest phase of Coventry City Council's 'Extending Pupil Places' project.

The Lord Mayor has a close attachment to the school, which her son attended. She

said: "I was honoured to be invited to see the development of the scheme. It was fascinating to see how the school has changed since my own son attended."

The school will gradually move to two-form entry year-one, and the first additional reception class in the new purpose-built classroom started last September.

The extension is due to be completed at the end of January 2015 and will consist of six new classrooms, three group rooms, a library area, a new hall and a family room.

## Families help shape special schooling

Parents and carers are now helping design the special education support their children receive in school and college.

New Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) legislation means families play a central role in producing new Education, Health and Care Plans with professionals.

The new plans replaced Statements of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments from September 1, 2014.

The reforms offer simpler, improved and consistent help for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. It also sees help and support offered from birth to 25 years of age, giving families greater choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.

A new online portal at [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk) called The Local Offer will provide information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents or carers in a single place.

You can help make sure the Local Offer webpages have the correct and most useful information by visiting [www.coventry.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/localoffer).

www.discovercoventry.co.uk

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DISCOVER  
*Christmas*  
IN COVENTRY

VISIT OUR

*Christmas  
Market!*

10 - 24 December  
• Broadgate •

Find those unique gifts you won't find anywhere else in our Christmas Craft and Gift Market. We have a free gift wrapping service for any of your items bought in the city centre and when you have finished shopping relax with a mulled wine or mince pie in our fully licensed bar.

*Car Parking*  
**FREE**  
*from 3\**

Every Wednesday evening from  
26 November to 17 December

#CoventryatChristmas

\*Free parking offer only applies to Council managed car parks, and when entering the car park after 3pm.



ST MARY'S  
GUILDHALL

Booking is  
essential



## Festive Feasts at St. Mary's Guildhall

1 December to 19 December

For more information call 024 7683 3328 or visit  
[www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk/special-events](http://www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk/special-events)

## Religious Events

Wednesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

- 3pm 'Journey to Bethlehem'  
Coventry Cathedral
- 7pm 'Form of a Servant'  
Coventry Cathedral
- 11pm Midnight Eucharist  
Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day

- 10.30am Family Christmas Service  
Holy Trinity Church
- 10.30am Christmas Eucharist with  
the Bishop of Coventry  
Coventry Cathedral

For full service information please log onto the website.

## Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

- Festive Bunting Workshop £8 6 December  
Glimming Christmas Crafts \$1 22 December

For more information about the above activities or to book  
your place, visit [www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org) or call 024 7623 7521.

# Christmas at...

## West Orchards

Santa's here... at West Orchards Shopping Centre.

From the 26 November to 3pm Christmas Eve. Visit him for FREE - there just might be a small gift for you! Remember to bring your camera so you can capture the moment. Watch Rocket the Reindeer soar between the chimney pots in his 3-D cinema Adventure - that's free too.

## The Lower Precinct

Lantern Parade

Saturday 13 December - from 11am

Lower Precinct lights up Christmas with lanterns made by children at 4pm. There are workshops in the Centre from 11am on the Saturday and local schools will also be joining us for the parade.



## City Arcade... meet and greet!

Saturday 13 December

Peppa Pig and George

at intervals between 11am and 3.30pm

Saturday 20 December

SpongeBob SquarePants

at intervals between 11am and 3.30pm

## COVENTRY CITY CENTRE

# opening times

Monday to Saturday	9am - 6pm
Wednesday 24 November, 3, 10, and 17 December	9am - 9pm
Sunday	10:30am - 4:30pm
Monday 22, 23 December	9am - 9pm
Christmas Eve	9am - 5pm
Boxing Day	9am - 6pm

Shopping centres and stores may vary please visit  
[www.discovercoventry.co.uk](http://www.discovercoventry.co.uk) for individual times.

# Late Night Shopping Wednesdays

Late night shopping begins at the Christmas  
Lights switch on event on the 26 November.

Most stores are open until 9pm each Wednesday up to  
and including the 17 December.

There will be entertainment with Free Radio breakfast  
presenters JD and Roisin who will be bringing  
Broadgate to life with the **Free Radio Stage** from  
5.30pm until 7.30pm and the **Christmas Photobooth**  
will be on hand to take some festive snapshots.



COVENTRY  
Business Improvement District  
Enhancing your city centre

DISCOVER  
OUR CITY

# City at the forefront of fight to end FGM

More than 300 delegates from agencies and community groups across Coventry and the West Midlands joined a major city conference to combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Coventry's multi-agency Health and Wellbeing Board arranged the conference in a bid to raise awareness of the issue and to encourage communities to actively help eradicate the practice. Agencies have been working together to gather more information about the issue, how it is being addressed, barriers in dealing with it, and the scale of it in Coventry.

FGM is a dangerous illegal practice, and communities in Coventry are increasingly speaking out against it. Cllr Alison Gingell, who has been leading Coventry's campaign against FGM, said: "It is about neighbours and communities supporting each other to oppose FGM and protecting girls who may be at risk."

The Council has been working closely with Celestinecelestine, a not-for-profit organisation founded in 2013 to facilitate awareness of the effects of FGM. Virginia Ringane, founder and manager said "We are very grateful to Cllr



■ Council leader Ann Lucas (front, second right) and Councillor Alison Gingell (front, second left) join other local civic and health representatives to welcome Shadow Home Office Minister Seema Malhotra (centre) to the conference.

Gingell for championing this issue and believe that with such a strong partnership we can effectively support communities to oppose

**'It is about neighbours and communities supporting each other to oppose FGM and protecting girls who may be at risk...'**

the practice."

In Coventry between April and September 2014 there have been 35 women affected by FGM accessing midwifery services.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) has been working in partnership to address FGM locally since 2009. It has

developed a safeguarding procedure and a website.

West Midlands Police has launched Operation Sentinel, an initiative aimed at protecting the most vulnerable members of society, while Coventry University is a partner in the EU project REPLACE 2 which seeks an integrated community-based approach to ending the FGM practice

In addition, the Council's Female Genital Mutilation Task & Finish Group, set up in 2009, is recommending that FGM is tackled in Coventry by all relevant agencies working in partnership to implement safeguards.

Community groups in Coventry came together recently to share their ideas and achievements with each other on how they have promoted wellbeing in their neighbourhoods.

The Community Wellbeing Project is funded by Coventry Public Health and is being delivered by Valley House and Grapevine voluntary organisation. It aims to promote good mental health by supporting local grassroots groups to champion Coventry's 10 Way to Wellbeing.

Manjeet Stone, project leader, said: "We have worked with a wide range of groups, including knitting clubs and reading and parenting groups. They are fantastic examples of how the 10 Ways to Wellbeing can improve the health and wellbeing of all Coventry people".



**The Wellbeing team: Helping you look good and feel fine**

To find out more, call Manjeet Stone at Valley House on 024 7658 4899.

**And the 10 Ways to Wellbeing....?** They are: 1. Connect, 2. Be active, 3. Take notice, 4. Keep learning, 5. Give, 6. Have rewarding work, 7. Feel safe and good about where I live, 8. Feel good physically, 9. Eat and drink healthily, 10. Sleep well.

## Picture round-up



### Trust brings Mouth Cancer Action month to Coventry

Members of Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust's oral health team have been helping raise awareness of mouth cancer.

In the UK mouth cancer is diagnosed in more than 6,500 people annually and kills more than 2,000 people each year – one death every four hours. The oral health team has been helping people to be more aware of the common signs and symptoms of mouth cancer.

Mouth Cancer Action features the tagline 'If in doubt, get checked out' and urges members of the public to be mouth aware and act on changes in their mouths.

For more information about the campaign please visit the website: [www.mouthcancer.org](http://www.mouthcancer.org). For NHS support in giving up smoking, call 024 7696 1590, email [smokefree.coventry@covwarkpt.nhs.uk](mailto:smokefree.coventry@covwarkpt.nhs.uk) or text QUIT to 07768 867987.



## Free flu vaccination could save your life

■ **Rachael Leslie, who is expecting twins, has her free flu vaccination from Gam Amar, pharmacist and owner at Allesley Pharmacy.**



Thousands of people across Coventry are being encouraged to take advantage of a free flu vaccination before the winter season takes hold.

Around one in three people across the city are entitled to a free flu vaccination but many do not take up the offer. People aged 65 and over, carers, any

adult or child with health conditions such as diabetes, chronic heart and lung diseases such as asthma or bronchitis, liver or kidney diseases and neurological conditions like Parkinson's or Multiple Sclerosis are eligible.

Pregnant women in particular are being encouraged to take the

flu jab, with only 43 per cent of those eligible in Coventry and Rugby taking up the offer last year.

A nasal spray is available for children in Years 7 and 8, plus those aged two, three and four.

For more information on how to get your flu jab, visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/flujab](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/flujab).



■ **Launching the dementia strategy are (back row, from left) Jon Waterman from West Midlands Fire Service, Dr Jerry Horn, GP clinical lead for dementia from the NHS Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, (front) Janice Connolly from the Coventry Alzheimer's Society and Cllr Alison Gingell, the Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services.**

## Dementia strategy launched

Coventry's first-ever dementia strategy has been launched to help thousands of people living with the condition across the city. The joint partnership document sets out what is currently in place as well as what should be in place for people with dementia, and a framework for partners to use when planning services. In Coventry, there are thought to be approximately 3,600 people living with dementia and this is set to rise to almost 4,000 by 2016. Cllr Alison Gingell, the Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, said the strategy sets out the priorities that local people with dementia and their carers have said are important to them.

Dr Jerry Horn, Clinical Lead for Dementia at NHS

Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, believes the city-wide strategy is a major step forward.

## Advice and support when you need it most

Meet the NHS Smokefree Coventry team of advisors who helped some of the more than 3,000 people in Coventry stop smoking last year. One in every 16 smokers in Coventry kicked the habit last year with the help of the Council-funded Stop Smoking Services, according to new research from Public Health England. This is well above the national average, where around one in 29 smokers quit the habit in 2013/14.

Cllr Joe Clifford, chair of Coventry's Smokefree Alliance, said: "The new data is really positive, our Stop Smoking providers in the city are readily available, and have excellent staff."

For details of the help and support available, contact Coventry and Warwickshire

Partnership Trust on 0300 200 0011, Stop4Life on 0800 612 4580, or University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) on 024 7696 4760.

■ **QUIT SMOKING today, and it could save you hundreds of pounds, according to new research.** Mohammed Patel, Service Lead for Healthy Lifestyles at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, said: "If smokers and e-cigarette smokers quit now, they could hundreds of pounds to treat themselves or their family." So why not call the NHS Smokefree Coventry team to find out more about the support available on 024 7696 1090, or book your first appointment by calling 0300 200 0011, texting QUIT to 07768 867867 or emailing [smokefree.coventry@covwarkpt.nhs.uk](mailto:smokefree.coventry@covwarkpt.nhs.uk)

## Safe-sex song's in tune with the young

A song highlighting the importance of young people practising safe sex, written and produced by three Coventry students, is proving a hit on Facebook

*Rather be safe than sorry* was penned by The Northbrook Boys (**below**) a group of three 16-17 year olds from Allesley, Coventry. The song has impressed NHS health experts who have decided to include the tune on the NHS Choices website. Since the song was launched



on the C-Card Facebook, it has reached in the region of 36,000 people. The song was the winner in a Coventry City Council competition called the SEX Factor. The idea was to create a campaign that was fun, and that engaged with young people in a more innovative way.

The competition was run through social media, using the C-Card Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/ccardcoventry](http://www.facebook.com/ccardcoventry). To hear the song, go to [www.nhs.uk/Video/Pages/you-d-rather-be-safe-than-sorry.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Video/Pages/you-d-rather-be-safe-than-sorry.aspx)

## High Street advice

Health partners across Coventry have come together to support the NHS winter campaign *Feeling under the weather?*

The campaign urges older people to seek early advice from their pharmacist for minor winter illnesses. It is targeted at the over 60s, and also at those who often look after an older friend, neighbour or relative.

Pharmacists can give advice on most minor illnesses, especially during the winter months when they are a lot more common. Dr Jane Moore, Director of Public Health in Coventry, added: "Local pharmacies and NHS 111 – the number that is free to call from landlines and mobiles and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – should be your first port of call if you're not feeling well."

NHS 111 is a national telephone service which should be used if you need medical help fast but it's not a life-threatening situation. The 999 number should still be used if it is an emergency.

For details, visit [www.nhs.uk/asap](http://www.nhs.uk/asap) or [www.nhs.uk/111](http://www.nhs.uk/111)

# ALL JOURNEYS ARE DIFFERENT

## Some are better together

**Adopt** or **Foster** for Coventry and we will be with you throughout your journey.

You will have access to quality training, support and generous allowances, helping you to make a real difference to a child's future.

Over 600 children in Coventry need a secure, loving, stable home, around half have at least one brother or sister **who want to stay together.**

Sibling relationships are often the longest lasting relationships of our lives.

Help us to protect that for Coventry children

**It's time to make a difference**

Call the Adoption and Fostering Recruitment Team on

**024 7683 2828**

[www.coventry.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering)



**ADOPT AND  
FOSTER FOR  
COVENTRY**



Adopt and Foster for Coventry



# Spare a home thought for our needy children

A campaign to encourage families to give new homes to around 70 children has been highlighted in Coventry.

Coventry needs adopters and foster carers and the Council's Family Placement Service has been explaining to people what is involved in adopting or fostering for Coventry.

One of the city's current adopters is John who, with his partner, adopted two young children earlier this year. He said: "What I would say to prospective parents is that it's an amazing and thoroughly enjoyable journey. You will learn so much about children, parenting and yourselves. We have completed the adoption process feeling energised and more confident as individuals and stronger in our relationship with each other too."

Prospective adopters and foster carers are allocated their own social worker to guide them through from assessment to placement and have access to continued support training and resources.

Councillor Ken Taylor, the city's Adoption and Fostering Champion, said: "Coventry children urgently need people to come forward as adopters or foster carers to enable them to enjoy their childhood in safe, stable, loving homes and to reach their full potential in life."

To find out more, call the Family Placement team on 024 7683 2828 or e-mail [familyplacementservice@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:familyplacementservice@coventry.gov.uk). You can also visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering) or visit the Adopt and Foster for Coventry Facebook page.

## You don't have to take it!



**The Council has invested an additional £250,000 into new domestic violence and abuse services providing advice, support and accommodation to more adults and children affected by the issue.**

**This will be supported by key agencies in Coventry including the police, health agencies and social care amongst others. The Coventry Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Services demonstrates Coventry's commitment to ending domestic violence and abuse. Organisations providing care include Refuge, Safe and Supported Partnership, Fry Housing Trust and Barnardo's. To find out more, visit [www.safetotalk.org.uk](http://www.safetotalk.org.uk) for call the helpline on 0800 035 5309.**

## Neil honoured Shelter offers warm welcome

**Council youth worker Neil Highway has been honoured in the National Youth Agency's latest awards for his work with the young people of Stoke Heath. Neil was instrumental in developing football initiatives for young people in his area and raising funds for the Stoke Heath Community Centre, Neil is fully deserving of his award. Councillor Ed Ruane said it was a great accolade for Neil.**

The Coventry Winter Night Shelter, piloted last year, relaunched on December 1. A partnership of city churches under the umbrella of Hope Coventry, the Coventry Winter Night Shelter provided sleeping accommodation for 108 rough-sleepers/homeless who registered last winter. The aim is to provide shelter, care and warmth to those living on the streets through the coldest winter nights. The scheme helped 25 people find more permanent accommodation. The project is supported by the Council and The Salvation Army, but

volunteers and financial support are needed. Hope Coventry and the churches of the city are keen to recruit volunteers from any background who would like to participate in the project. More volunteers are needed to cover the extended 17-week period from December 1 until March 31, 2015. To register your interest, visit [coventrywinter\\_nightshelter@gmail.com](mailto:coventrywinter_nightshelter@gmail.com)

To support the work of Coventry Winter Night Shelter, donations can be Gift Aided by e-mailing your name and address to [coventrywinternightshelter@gmail.com](mailto:coventrywinternightshelter@gmail.com)



## Uni in the fast lane with hydrogen van

A hydrogen fuel cell van was showcased by Coventry University and its spin-off firm Microcab at the Advanced Engineering UK show at Birmingham's NEC in November.

Microcab (pictured above), which is based at the University's Technology Park, took pride of place on one of the show's main stands with the commercial van adaptation of its state-of-the-art H2EV – a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle whose only exhaust emission is water.

The university also used the event to showcase its recently-launched Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME), a £32+ million collaboration between Coventry University and Unipart Manufacturing which recently secured a major R&D role in the development of cleaner and more efficient engines for future Ford models.

Microcab's pioneering fleet of zero emission H2EVs has a 55mph top speed and 180 mile range on a full tank, and is currently participating in the world's largest hydrogen fuel cell trial which was launched in northern Europe this summer.

## Unit goes digital in the fight against cancer

**A new cancer research unit set up at the University of Warwick will use digital technology to try and find new treatments for the disease.**

**The unit will also bring together expertise from mathematicians, physicists and engineers to further develop cancer research.**

**Collaborative relationships will also be set up with researchers and clinicians at the University of Birmingham and NHS partners University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire and University Hospitals Birmingham.**

**If you're passionate about cancer research and would like to make a difference, please visit [www.warwick.ac.uk/cancerappeal](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/cancerappeal) to see how your support could help save lives.**



**Don't forget, our offices and most Council buildings are closed over Christmas -**

**from Thursday 25 December to Monday 5 January**

**But if it's urgent, you'll be able to contact us on 024 7683 3333, or visit our website at [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)**

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



## Winter training

More FREE training sessions for adults and children, courtesy of the Council. To book, go to [www.coventry.gov.uk/cycletraining](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/cycletraining) or call 024 7683 1184.

**December: 6** (9.45am-noon & 1-3.15pm), Xcel Leisure Centre, adult beginners (outdoor); **13** (9.45am-noon & 1-3.15pm), Moat House Leisure Centre, adult beginners (outdoor).

**January: 17** (9.45am-noon), Coventry Sports Centre, adult improvers and advanced (on road); **17** (1.30-3.45pm), Coventry Sports Centre, adult and child beginners (indoor); **24** (9.45am-noon & 1-3.15pm), Woodlands Academy, adult and child beginners (indoor), adult improvers (on road); **31** (9.45am-noon), Coventry Sports Centre, adult improvers and advanced (on road); **31** (1.30-3.45pm), Coventry Sports Centre, adult and child beginners (indoor).



**February: 7** (9.45am-noon & 1-3.15pm), Woodlands Academy, adult and child beginners (indoor), adult improvers (on road); **14** (9.45am-noon), Coventry Sports Centre, adult improvers and advanced (on road); **14** (1.30-3.45pm), Coventry Sports Centre, adult and child beginners (indoor); **21** (9.45am-noon & 1-3.15pm), Woodlands Academy, adult beginners (indoor) and improvers (on road), child beginners (indoor); **28** (9.45am-noon), Coventry Sports Centre, adult improvers and advanced (on road); **28** (3-5.15pm), Coventry Sports Centre, adult and child beginners (indoor).

**March: 7** (9.45am-noon & 1-3.15pm), Woodlands Academy, adult beginners (indoor) and improvers (on road), child beginners (indoor); **7** (9.45am-noon), Coventry Sports Centre, adult improver and advanced (on road); **14** (1.30-3.45pm), Coventry Sports Centre, adult and child beginners (indoor); **21** (9.45am-noon & 1-3.15pm), Woodlands Academy, adult beginners (indoor) and improvers (on road), child beginners (indoor).



■ Cyclists of all ages try out one of the new city cycle routes.

# Bonanza for bikers!

Cycle Coventry is opening a series of new, improved routes over the next few months, to help city people get to key places of work and leisure more easily.

The routes, with many traffic-free paths, will all be clearly signposted and numbered to make them easier to follow.

In October, students and staff from the Westwood Academy and Westwood Business Park tested their new route as they rode from the Westwood Academy along Charter Avenue, past Canley Station and along Hearsall Common into the city centre.

This was the first route to be completed as part of the project and includes new crossings by Coventry Cycle Speedway on Hearsall Common and also at the Earlsdon Avenue North junction. Before its official completion in August, already 300 cyclists a day were recorded using the Hearsall Common section of the route with a peak of 411 on one day.

This winter, the improved Sowe Valley traffic-free route (*main picture*) will be complete, which runs from the Ansty Road along the River Sowe to 'Wyken Slough' and also towards Henley College, where there is a new toucan crossing, and improved path along Henley Road which links to Alderman's Green Industrial Estate. The Sowe Valley route is already popular with walkers and is an ideal gentle leisure route for

cyclists and for children with new bikes for Christmas!

In March, signed routes heading out of the city centre to Woodway Park and the Ricoh Arena will also be complete.

Rachel Lancaster, Cabinet Member for Public Services, said: "These new routes and the free cycle training and support we provide will make it easier to cycle in the city. Cycle Coventry is currently working on a number of routes and these are being completed over the winter."



■ The new cycle route at Hearsall Common.



# Oh yes it is ... it's panto time!

Here are some of the things you can enjoy in and around Coventry during the winter season

## NOVEMBER

**Until Jan 10 – Aladdin**, The Belgrade Theatre. This Christmas there will be more fun and adventure than ever in store as Aladdin attempts to win the heart of the beautiful princess. Great for the whole family, tickets start from £8.75.

## DECEMBER

**Until Jan 11 – People of India: Photographs by Jason Scott Tilley**, The Herbert (*free*). An exhibition of three series of photographs, taken in India at different time periods spanning the last 150 years.

**Until Feb 1 – The Great War: Coventry's Story**, The Herbert (*free*). The exhibition marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, and the experiences of Coventry people in the armed forces and on the home front. Go to [www.theHerbert.org](http://www.theHerbert.org) for more information.

**5 (until 24) – Santa's Dizzy Day**, The Belgrade Theatre. A fun-packed experience for children, which will make them laugh, sing their favourite songs and get them to help Santa out of a tricky situation. Tickets start from £4.50.

**6 (until 27) – Oh No It Isn't!**, The Belgrade Theatre. Back by popular demand, this brilliant comedy thriller written and directed by acclaimed Coventry writer Nick Walker will bring a mixture of emotions. Tickets start at £8.50.

**6 – Christmas Wreath Workshop**, Coombe Country Park, visitor centre (1.30-3.30pm). Create your own Christmas welcome wreath with natural materials. Refreshments provided. Advanced booking necessary, cost £15. Suitable for 16 and over. Call 024 7645 3720. **6 – Christmas On The Coventrian Narrowboat**, Canal Basin. One hour trip on Coventry Canal, to include a mince pie and glass of mulled wine. Trips are throughout the day and can be booked at [Events@covsf.com](mailto:Events@covsf.com)

**6 – Christmas Craft Market**, Canal Basin (4-8pm). Craft Market with a children's area and Santa's grotto (*free*). Details from [Events@covsf.com](mailto:Events@covsf.com)

**6 – Festive Bunting Workshop**, The Herbert (10.30am-12.30pm & 2-4pm). Artist and printmaker Amy Wilde will help you to design, cut and screen print your own unique bunting. Cost £8. Booking is required. Suitable for adults.

**7 – Little Elves Workshop**, Coombe Country Park, visitor centre (10am-12pm and 1-3pm). Make stylish and sustainable Christmas decorations from willow and other natural materials. Advance booking necessary, cost £3. Suitable for families. Call 024 7645 3720.

**15 (until Jan 5) – Winter Walks**, Coombe Country Park (10am-4pm, £1 per trail). Self-guided winter walks, to include a buy one, get one free hot drinks voucher for the Heron's Café. Purchase trail sheets from the Visitor Centre. Suitable for all. No booking required. See website for details.

**11 (also Jan 8) – ensemble 1685**, The Herbert (12.30-1.30pm, *free*). ensemble 1685 is a singers' group, based in Coventry, which has built a reputation for innovative encounters with vocal music. Booking is not required.

**13 – Christmas Indoor Gift Fair**, Centre AT7 (noon-5pm). Gift stalls, children's play area, Santa's grotto (*free*). Details from [Events@covsf.com](mailto:Events@covsf.com)

**13 – Crafty Cat Ceramic Christmas**, Coombe Country Park, visitor centre (11am-3pm). Join The Crafty Cat Paint Your Own Pottery Studio for some festive fun. From snowman ornaments to hanging decorations this studio has it all. All pieces made on this day will be ready to collect from December 20. Advance booking necessary, cost from £5. Suitable for families. Call Sue at the Crafty

Cat on 07501 467560.

**14 – Santa's Toy Workshop**, War Memorial Park, education room in the visitors' centre (10.30am-12.30pm). Santa's Elves are running behind and need help finishing off the big sack of toys. Help them finish the toys and then take some home for Christmas. Cost £3 per child. Family activity, no need to book.

**14 – Christmas Lunch Cruise on the Coventrian Narrowboat**, Swan Lane Wharf (noon). Cruise along the Coventry Canal and enjoy a three-course Christmas dinner. Details from [Events@covsf.com](mailto:Events@covsf.com)

**14 – Christmas in the Park**, War Memorial Park, education room in the visitors' centre (2-4pm, *free*). Come and listen to the carols in the park, and take part in some arts and crafts to decorate your home. Suitable for families – no need to book.

**16 – Herbert Illuminations: Sir Gawain and the The Green Knight**, The Herbert (12.30-1.30pm, *free*). Christmas talk with a difference! Booking is not required.

**18-19 – Early Years Play Days**, The Herbert (10.30-11.30am & 1-2pm, £1). Play Days gives children aged 1-3 an opportunity to explore and investigate through sensory play, which encourages creativity. Drop in, booking is not required.

**21 – Wasps v London Irish**, Aviva Premiership rugby, Ricoh Arena. For tickets, see [www.wasps.co.uk](http://www.wasps.co.uk).

**22 – Blinging Christmas Crafts**, The Herbert (10.30am-2.30pm & 1.30-3.30pm, £1). Create vibrant decorations using things that can be found at home..... and a little bit of glitter and Christmas sparkle! Drop in. Content suitable for 5+ but all are welcome.

**20-23 – Santa's Grotto**, Coombe Country Park, visitor centre (10am-3.30pm). It's that time of year again, when Santa and his elves set up a winter

wonderland grotto at Coombe. You will meet the elves in the toy workshop and be able to make your own Christmas crafts to take home with you while you wait to see Father Christmas. Cost £6.95 per child (*car parking included*). Call for availability on 024 7645 3720.

**30-31 – Poos from the Past!**, The Herbert (11am, 11.30am, noon, 1.30pm, 2pm, 2.30pm & 3pm, £1). Join us for an archaeological dig with a difference – learn about people from the past by examining their poo! Drop in at the times above to buy a ticket. If that session is full you will be given a ticket for the next session. Booking is not required. Suitable for age 5+.

## JANUARY

**10 – Big Bird Breakfast**, Coombe Country Park (10-10.45am; 11-11.45am; noon-12.45pm. £2 per child, under 2s free if accompanied by paying sibling). Take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch by making your own bird feeders to take home. Meet at the information desk outside the Visitor Centre five minutes before the session. Suitable for families. Advance booking and payment essential – call 024 7645 3720.

**14 – Hats Off to Led Zeppelin**, The Belgrade Theatre. The UK number one tribute to the greatest rock band ever. Not to be missed for Led Zep fans or of 70's rock in general. Tickets start from £17.25.

**15 – Buddy Holly: A Legend Reborn**, The Belgrade Theatre. The UK's number one Buddy, Marc Robinson, is joined by The Everly Brothers and Billy Fury revues for the rock 'n' roll show of the year. Tickets start at £17.25.

**16 – The Simon & Garfunkel Story**, The Belgrade Theatre. Award-winning actor Dean Elliott and a full cast tell the compelling story of the greatest musical duo of all time. Tickets start at £17.25.

**17 – 80's Mania**, The Belgrade

**NEWS**bite



## Fundraising dinner helps Pakistan schoolgirls

A fundraising dinner attended by the Lord Lieutenant for the West Midlands, has raised more than £600 to help girls and young women in Pakistan.

The event was organised by Cllr Abdul Khan, Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports, Parks and Events, and Parvez Akhtar, owner of Fazal's Restaurant in Foleshill Road.

Guests paid £15 for a ticket for the three course meal and all proceeds will now be used to buy computers and books for the young girls and women of the KPK (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province) area

of Pakistan.

The conflict in Afghanistan has left its marks on KPK, making the area a mini war zone, limiting everything for the residents of this area from the basics of education to health facilities.

According to media reports, terrorism, floods and earthquakes contributed to the destruction of over 3,400 schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Cllr Khan thanked everyone for their contributions and that they would make a real difference to the girls and young women in the KPK area.

Theatre. An incredible tribute to the 80s. Over 35 smash hits performed with tributes to Duran Duran, The Human League, Kim Wilde and many more. Dig out the 80s fashion and party! Tickets start from £19.75.

**19 – Vampires Rock: The Final Countdown**, The Belgrade Theatre. Steve Steinman and a full cast of superb singers, dancers and band blast their way through rock classics. Tickets start from £19.75.

**21 – Marriage of Figaro**, The Belgrade Theatre. Bursting with

great tunes, laugh-out-loud comedy and powerful insights into what it is to be human, it's little wonder that *The Marriage of Figaro* is one of the world's best loved operas. Tickets start from £17.25.

**22 – Rat Pack Live**, The Belgrade Theatre. During their 50s and 60s heyday they defined cool. Their mix of big band swing and charisma was infectious and you can now relive this with Rat Pack Live. Tickets start from £19.25.

**23 – The Elvis Years**, The Belgrade Theatre. An outstanding concert production of the West

End musical *Jailhouse Rock*, featuring original star Mario Kumbou. Tickets start from £19.75.

**24 – Little Chix**, The Belgrade Theatre. Hosted by JD from the Free Radio Show, this talented new tribute act to Little Mix bring together intricate harmonies and high-energy dance routines. Tickets start from £13.25.

**24 – Big Girls Don't Cry**, The Belgrade Theatre. Back at the Belgrade, the iconic sound of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons is recreated in this feelgood performance. Tickets start from £19.75.

**26-31 – Dead Simple**, The Belgrade Theatre. A suspense thriller based on the book by Peter James which has sold over two million copies. Starring former *Holby City* actress Tina Hobley. Tickets start from £16.25.

**31 – Storytelling Festival**, Coombe Country Park (10am-3.30pm, free entry to storytelling and trail, other activities will incur small charge). Coombe celebrates National Storytelling Week in partnership with Coventry Library Service with a fun family festival. Parking charges apply. Suitable for families, booking not required. See [www.coventry.gov.uk/coombe](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/coombe) for more details in January.

### FEBRUARY

**3-7 – The History Boys**, The Belgrade Theatre. Voted the nation's favourite play, Alan Bennett's multi award-winning *The History Boys* is set to return for 2015, touring the UK in a major new production opening at the Belgrade. Tickets start from £10.75.

**9-14 – Twelve Angry Men**, The Belgrade Theatre. Following a record-breaking West End run, this powerful new production of Reginald Rose's gripping courtroom thriller has been hailed as the "classiest, most intelligent drama in the West End". Tickets start from £17.25.

**14 (until Feb 22) – Heron Trail**, Coombe Country Park (10am-4pm, £1). Discover more about Warwickshire largest heronry as the Grey Herons flock to Coombe to mate. Suitable for families, booking not required.

**16-21 – And Then There Were None**, The Belgrade

Theatre. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Agatha Christie Theatre Company, *And Then There Were None* is revived on stage to follow in the footsteps of the company's hugely successful tours of *Murder on the Nile* and *Black Coffee*. Tickets start from £16.25.

**17 – Berty the Bushcrafter: Shelter Building**, Coombe Country Park (10am-noon, £2.50pp, under 5s free if accompanied by paying adult). Find out how to make a shelter in the woods using only natural materials from the park. Meet at the information desk outside the Visitors' Centre five minutes before the session. Suitable for families (all children must be accompanied). Advance booking and payment essential – call 024 7645 3720

**17 – Berty the Bushcrafter: Fire Lighting**, Coombe Country Park (1-3pm, £2.50pp, under 5s free if accompanied by paying adult). Learn how to make a real fire from scratch in the woodland with the help of the team at Coombe. Parking charges apply. Meet at the information desk outside the Visitors' Centre five minutes before the session. Suitable for families (all children must be accompanied). Advance booking and payment essential – call 024 7645 3720.

**18 – All the Fun of the Circus**, War Memorial Park (10.30am-12.30pm, £3 per child). Make a juggling ball and other circus themed arts and crafts to take home. Meet at the Education Room at the Visitors' Centre. Suitable for families. Drop-in session (Allow at least 45 minutes to complete all crafts on offer).

**19 – Big Bird Lunch Box**, War Memorial Park (1.30-3pm, £1.50 per child). Have a go at making recycled bird feeders and make some fat balls to take home. Meet at the Education Room at the Visitors' Centre. Suitable for families. Drop-in session (Allow at least 45 minutes to complete all activities on offer).

**21 – Nest Box Workshop**, Coombe Country Park (10am-noon, £10 per box). Make a nest box for your garden during National Nest Box Week. Meet at the information desk outside the Visitors' Centre five minutes before the session. Suitable for families (5 years+). Advance booking and payment essential – call 024 7645 3720.

**I BABLAKE**

Cllrs Galliers and Kershaw hold regular surgeries: Coronation Club, Keresley Rd noon-1pm on the first Saturday of the month, Good Honest Food Company, Gardenia Drive, Allesley Village, last Tuesday of the month or contact them directly as below:  
**Cllr David Galliers:** 07973 780871 e-mail david.galliers@coventry.gov.uk twitter @davidgalliers www.facebook.com/AllesleyCoundonAndKeresley www.bablakelabour.com  
**Cllr David Kershaw CBE, JP:** 024 7671 1107 or 07850 664576 or e-mail david.kershaw@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Jaswant Birdi:** first Monday of month from 5-6pm, Allesley Village Hall, Birmingham Road. Second Tuesday of month from 10.30am-noon, Good Honest Food Company, Gardenia Drive, Allesley Village. Call 024 7644 9698 or e-mail jaswant.birdi@coventry.gov.uk

**I BINLEY & WILLENHALL**

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

**I CHEYLESMORE**

Cllrs Bailey and Noonan hold regular surgeries: Cheylesmore Community Centre 6.30-8pm on last Wednesday of each month (except December) or contact them directly as below:  
**Cllr Roger Bailey:** Call 024 7683 1101 (day) or e-mail roger.bailey@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Hazel Noonan** (Lord Mayor): Call 024 7683 3048 (day) or 024 7650 5109 (evenings) or e-mail hazel.noonan@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Richard Brown:** Call 07983 383627 or 024 7683 1039 or e-mail richard.brown@coventry.gov.uk

**I EARLSDON**

**Cllr Allan Andrews:** Happy to help where I can. Will visit at home or the Council House. Please call for an appointment on 024 7683 1276 or 07534 972383 or e-mail allan.andrews@coventry.gov.uk or follow on twitter @allanandrews  
**Cllr Michael Hammon:** (Deputy Lord Mayor): Call 024 7683 3048 for an appointment or e-mail rosemarie.potts@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 1030 (day) or 07903 847160 or e-mail abdul.khan@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Malkiat Auluck:** First and last Tuesday of the month 4.30-6.30pm at Indian Community Centre, Cross Rd or call 024 7663 7965 for an appointment.

**I HENLEY**

**Cllr Lynnette Kelly:** Call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail lynnette.kelly@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Kevin Maton:** Call 07941 827229 or e-mail kevin.maton@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Ed Ruane:** Call 07817 218137 or e-mail ed.ruane@coventry.gov.uk.

**I HOLBROOK**

**Cllr Joe Clifford:** Every Wednesday, 6.30-7.30pm at Holbrook Community Care Assoc, Holbrooks Lane. Call 024 7646 5315 or e-mail joseph.clifford@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Rachel Lancaster:** Call 024 7636 0021, 024 7683 1002, or e-mail rachel.lancaster@coventry.gov.uk for an appointment.

**Cllr Ann Lucas OBE:** Call 024 7683 1103 for an appointment or e-mail ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk Surgery on first Monday of each month 9.30-10.30am at Holbrook Health Centre, Wheelwright Lane.

**I LONGFORD**

**Cllr Linda Bigham:** First Friday of every month 3.30-4.30pm at Longford Primary Care Centre, Longford Rd, and 5.30-6.30pm at Scout Headquarters, Aldermans Green Rd. Last Friday of every month 6-7pm at St Thomas' Parish Church Hall, Longford Rd. Please call 024 7636 0898 to make a surgery appointment.  
**Cllr George Duggins:** Second Saturday of every month 12-1pm at Bell Green Community Centre, Old Church Rd and 1.15-2pm at Royal Hotel, Old Church Rd. Second Sunday of every month 11.30am-1pm at Bell Green Club, Roseberry Ave or call 024 7683 1039 (day) or e-mail george.duggins@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Lindsay Harvard:** First Saturday of every month 10.45-11.45am at Scout Hut, Aldermans Green Rd and 11.45am-12.45pm at Bell Green Community Centre, Old Church Rd. First Sunday of every month 12pm at the Church Hall, St Thomas' Parish Church, Longford Rd, and 12pm-1pm at Bell Green Club, Roseberry Ave. Call 024 7667 5717, or e-mail lindsay.harvard@coventry.gov.uk

**I LOWER STOKE**

**Cllr John McNicholas:** If you have a problem, need help or advice. I can visit you in your home and be contacted on 024 7683 1039 (day), 024 7650 4037 (evenings) or e-mail john.mcnicholas@coventry.gov.uk "We'll be down your way soon"  
**Cllr Phil Townshend:** Call 024 7683 1034 (day) for details 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:** First Friday of every month, Daimler Green community Centre, 6.30pm-7.30pm. 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 Radford Social Club, 226, Radford Rd, CV6 3BQ from 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 Rd, CV1 4BY. 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 St. 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 Naeem Akhtar:** Surgeries every first Tuesday of the month, 5-6pm at Hillfields Youth Centre, Yardley St. For an appointment call 07747 003141 or e-mail naeem.akhtar@coventry.gov.uk.

**Cllr Jim O'Boyle:** Second Saturday of each month, 12-1pm at Zeenat Restaurant, Cambridge St, Hillfields, fourth Saturday of month, noon at Transport House, Short St. Call 024 7669 4873 or 024 7683 1039, or e-mail jim.o'boyle@coventry.gov.uk

**I SHERBOURNE**

**Cllr Seamus Walsh:** Call 07956 546983 or 024 7683 1039 (day), or e-mail seamus.walsh@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Alison Gingell:** For an appointment call 024 7683 1002 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:** For an appointment or home visit, call or text 07730 111101, or e-mail kamran.caan@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Sucha Bains:** Barras Green Social Club, Coventry St, between 12 noon-12.45pm every 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:** For an appointment call 024 7683 1101 (day) or 024 7646 1777 (after 6pm) or e-mail gary.crookes@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Tim Sawdon:** Call 024 7683 1101 (day) or 024 7641 5771 (after 6pm) or e-mail tim.sawdon@coventry.gov.uk

**I WESTWOOD**

**Cllr Maya Ali:** Please call 07949 653 656 or e-mail maya.ali@coventry.gov.uk and Cllr Ali will endeavour to visit you.  
**Cllr David Skinner:** Call 024 7683 1101 (day) or 024 7646 8106 (out of hours) or e-mail david.skinner@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Richard Sandy:** For an appointment call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail richard.sandy@coventry.gov.uk

**I WHOBERLEY**

**Cllr Dan Howells:** If you require help or advice I can visit you in your home or at a time and place convenient to you. To arrange an appointment call 07540 083974 or e-mail dan.howells@coventry.gov.uk  
**Cllr Jayne Innes:** Surgeries every fourth Saturday of the month except December; July and August from 12 noon at Allesley Park Library. Also you can ring 02476 405 132 or email jayne.innes@coventry.gov.uk for an appointment or home visit outside these times.  
**Cllr Bally Singh:** Regular Surgeries are held every third Saturday of the month 10am-noon at St Mary Magdelene Centre, Sir Thomas White Rd. 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**

Cllrs Hetherton and Thomas hold regular surgeries on the fourth Friday of each month at Tile Hill Library, Jardine Cres from 5-6pm.  
**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 1276 (day), 07944 458 751 or e-mail julia.lepoidevin@coventry.gov.uk

**I WYKEN**

Cllrs Thay, Abbott and Sweet hold surgeries every third Friday of the month, 6.30-7.30pm at Wyken Working Men's Club, Ansty Rd, 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

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**Cllr Ann Lucas OBE,** Leader  
 Policy and Leadership  
**Cllr Philip Townshend,** Deputy Leader;  
 Policing and Equalities  
*(Deputy, Cllr Colleen Fletcher)*  
**Cllr Damian Gannon,**  
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 Culture, Leisure, Sports, Parks and Events  
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 Community Development, Co-operative and Social Enterprise

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**Communities and Neighbourhoods (Scrutiny Board 4)**  
 C Cllr Bally Singh  
**Health and Social Care (Scrutiny Board 5)**  
 C Cllr Steven Thomas

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 gannond@parliament.uk  
**Geoffrey Robinson MP**  
 Coventry North West  
 Call 024 7625 7870  
 e-mail robinsong@parliament.uk

**European MPs**

**West Midlands Region**  
**UKIP**  
 James Carver. Bill Etheridge. Jill Seymour.  
**LABOUR**  
 Neena Gill. Sion Simon.  
**CONSERVATIVE**  
 Philip Bradbourn. Anthea E J McIntyre  
 For details, visit www.europarl.org.uk

**Police Commissioner**

**West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**  
**David Jameson**  
 0121 626 6060  
 For details, visit www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

# SAM FROM COVENTRY HAS...



**THE WAY YOU REGISTER TO VOTE HAS CHANGED  
YOU NEED TO REGISTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL**

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

Call Coventry City Council on 02476 833034

 Tweet us your photo @coventrycc #iveregistered

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS  
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"BOUNDLESS ENERGY, FANTASTIC SCENERY AND WONDERFUL COSTUMES!"  
★★★★★  
BY IAN LAMCHLAN  
26 Nov – 10 Jan  
Children from £8.75

**OH NO IT ISN'T!**  
AN ABSURD GROPING COMEDY TWINKLER  
WRITTEN BY PETER WALKER  
6 – 27 Dec  
from £9 ★

Sell A Door Theatre Company present  
**THE HISTORY BOYS**  
BY ALAN BENNETT  
3 – 7 Feb  
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**TWELVE ANGRY MEN**  
9 – 14 Feb  
from £17.75 ★

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S  
AND THEN THERE WERE  
**NONE**  
16 – 21 Feb  
from £16.75 ★

**OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR**  
THE MUSIC  
30 Mar – 4 Apr  
from £18.25 ★

**A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**  
ARTHUR MILLER  
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from £11.25 ★

**JOSEPH**  
AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT  
21 – 25 Apr  
from £18.25 ★

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26 – 30 May  
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FROM THE BOOK BY JOHN BOYNE  
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