

citivision

issue 66 | winter | 2019

'Splashtastic'

On the crest of a wave at Coventry's newest visitor attraction



Making an impact on homelessness



Medieval Guildhall refurb plan



Don't hang around get active



From the top



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

Addressing street homelessness

As we head into winter, Coventry, like all cities, will be continuing efforts to address homelessness at a time when we face a national housing crisis.

With the support of agencies, we have made progress in moving families out of temporary hotel accommodation and into more suitable housing, but we are all well aware of the continuing issue of those who are street homeless – people sleeping rough.

In this Citivision there are examples of what agencies are doing to help those people find more sustainable shelter.

Also in this issue, you will see some great images from inside The Wave, our fantastic new waterpark.

The city centre attraction is a major part of our year as European City of Sport and Year of Wellbeing. The past months have seen great success in getting people active, as well as the arrival of Footgolf and Go Ape and fitness equipment in our parks.

There are more improvements to come as we continue to build towards our time as UK City of Culture 2021 and you will have seen the beginnings of some of that work around the city centre. There will be some disruption, but it will be worth it.

Our environment is important to us all, and there is news of a 50% rise in fly-tipping prosecutions. This is good progress but we want more people to report fly-tipping and there are contact details on page 4. So please help if you can.

Finally, I wish you and your loved ones a happy and peaceful time this festive season..

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

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

Cover story: On the crest of a wave at Coventry's new visitor attraction.

contents welcome to the winter 2019 issue of citivision



news

4 Work could start early next year to carry out investigation work that could pave the way for a multi-million-pound investment to transform St Mary's Guildhall.

5 Pictures showing how Coventry city centre could be transformed have been unveiled.

7 A Coventry business is looking to celebrate the city's landmarks, businesses and attractions with the launch of the Coventry Sticker Album.

9 A project that aims to help rough sleepers off the streets in Coventry by offering a daily one stop advice and support venue has been expanded.

health

15 Health care partners are increasing their efforts to raise awareness of suicide prevention and mental health.

news

17 Velo Birmingham and Midlands is returning Sunday 21 June 2020 and the 100-mile entries are now on sale.

17 The Festival of Running will be returning in 2020 with a series of events including the Coventry Half Marathon on 5 April.

19 A team that repairs and restores the incredible collection at the Transport Museum has received a major boost.

spotlight

10 Coventry has welcomed its newest visitor attraction – and it's already making quite a splash!
See photo above.

what's on

20 A round-up of some of the attractions on offer in and around Coventry for the next few months.

councillors

22 Need to contact your councillors? Check out our comprehensive directory.

contact us

Call the Citivision newsdesk on 024 7683 1081 or write to Newsdesk, Room 73, Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR, or e-mail communications@coventry.gov.uk

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All details correct at the time of going to print (21 October).



Guildhall refurbishment

Work could start early next year to carry out investigations that could pave the way for multi-million pound investment to transform St Mary's Guildhall.

A report recommends that the Council reviews St Mary's Guildhall so it can make sure that the building is a high-quality visitor attraction in 2021 and beyond.

The medieval Guildhall is one of the finest in the

country, with a magnificent interior that includes a stunning 16th century tapestry. It is also thought to have one of the last intact medieval kitchens in England.

This original kitchen was covered up in 1954 but if the planning

application is approved work will begin to see if the kitchen can be uncovered. The work will help to discover the original kitchen's current condition and will reveal the scale of restorative work that may be required.

Work is also underway to secure funding for the larger project to transform the Guildhall.

Fly-tipping prosecutions up by 50 per cent

Latest figures show a reduction in fly-tipping while Council prosecutions have risen by 50 per cent as part of a zero-tolerance policy.



In the first quarter of this financial year (April-June 2019), the number of reported incidents dropped compared to the same period 12 months ago.

The news comes as the number of enforcement actions carried

out by the Council has risen from 2,613 in 2017/18 to 3,925 in 2018/19.

Resources have been reallocated, and money raised from issuing fixed penalty notices for litter has enabled new initiatives such as installing surveillance cameras at known fly-tipping hotspots to provide evidence for successful prosecutions and to act as a deterrent.

Councillor Abdul Salam Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities at Coventry City Council, warned fly-tippers would be prosecuted. He said:

"Fly-tipping is an anti-social crime, and will not be tolerated. It is no coincidence that the number of prosecutions has risen so dramatically,"

Councillor Patricia Hetheron, Cabinet Member for City Services at Coventry City Council, said that law-abiding citizens were fed-up with the problem.

She added:

"Despite the latest figures showing that we're making progress on the issue, we know there is still much more to do."

Anyone wanting to report fly-tipping should call **08085 834333** or do it online by visiting **www.coventry.gov.uk/flytipping**

'Blue Badge' parking scheme

Coventry advice agencies are publicising an extension to the Blue Badge parking scheme to cover 'hidden disabilities' such as autism and mental health issues.

Eligibility now covers those who cannot make journeys without suffering psychological distress; who can't make journeys without risk of harm to themselves or others; and those who have difficulty walking. Visit gov.uk/apply-blue-badge

Getting to grips with violent crime

Coventry councillors are increasing efforts to help agencies tackle violent crime in the city.

Scrutiny Boards are run across a range of services, helping develop Council policy, monitoring services and reviewing other public bodies - including health and crime and disorder matters.

Cllr Richard Brown, Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, said reducing violent crime could only be achieved through everyone working as one.

He said:

"We have had discussions with the police and other agencies and we know how concerning violent crime is for local people."

"It's important that we have a long term approach, including insisting that our police are properly funded by Government."

"Involving young people is also vital and there is a lot of good work happening in schools and communities."

Scrutiny Boards meet regularly in the Council House and also cover areas such as homelessness and services for vulnerable children.

Cllr Brown added:

"We are always happy to listen to suggestions from local people on other areas that are important to them."

For more details visit coventry.gov.uk/scrutiny or follow us on Twitter at [@Covscrutiny](https://twitter.com/Covscrutiny)

Changing face of city centre



■ Pictured: Designs for Upper Precinct and on New Union Street next to Bull Yard.

Pictures showing how Coventry city centre could be transformed have been unveiled.

Changes to key public areas in the city centre include ongoing projects such as The Wave Waterpark, renovation to create the Coventry Telegraph Hotel, the railway station masterplan, Hertford Street improvements and the Co-Operative residential and retail development.

They also show how parts of the city centre could be transformed, including Bull Yard, Market Way, Upper Precinct and Smithford Way. Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said:

"We have secured over £40 million in grant funding to get this work done and we will ensure we keep the best of the old alongside the best of the new."

"The work will build on what we have already started - including re-opening the link between Broadgate and Hertford Street and the work that is underway to bring down Coventry Point which will re-open the views in Market Way."

"We are still working on the detail - but we have been clear that we are planning something really top class with impressive planting, water features and new paving."

"Changes in our city centre are long overdue and although I know there will be some disruption to shoppers, visitors and traders while the work is underway, I think it will be worth it."

Hotel gets backing

The Council is set to approve the development of a site at Friargate next to the railway station, that will see Coventry's first four-star hotel built in the city centre for almost 50 years.

Warwickshire based Castlebridge Group are set to bring an impressive boutique hotel brand which already operates in over 120 locations worldwide, including Kensington, York, Bath and Stratford-Upon-Avon to the city.

The hotel will have 100 beds, along with a restaurant and themed bars that will be open to both residents and the general public.



■ Pictured: Chris Hobday (left) and Kai Wang

In the mood for food

The team behind a Coventry restaurant, which had to relocate due to demolition work in the city centre, has found a new home.

Alley Food & Mood has opened in Smithford Way and is under the same management as Red Panda, which was based beneath Coventry Point - the high rise building that is being demolished as part of wider regeneration work in the city centre.

Acting for the landlord, Holt Commercial brokered the deal with the Oriental restaurant.

Chris Hobday, Associate at Holt Commercial, said Smithford Way is becoming a destination for varied international food outlets reflecting the multicultural demographic of Coventry and the ever-increasing international student population.

He said:

"It's great to see another unit in the city centre being let." Ms Kai Wang, of Alley Food & Mood, said:

"We can see that this is going to be a very exciting time in Coventry and this area of the city centre is becoming very popular with people wanting to eat out."

Eat, drink and be merry

The city's ever-popular Christmas Lights Switch On returns to Broadgate on Wednesday 20 November to officially start the Christmas celebrations in Coventry.

Produced and delivered by the Council, the evening of live music, entertainment and festive fun will bring the city centre alive with event organisers hard at work to make it a night to remember!

On the night, there'll also be free parking after 3pm in Council car parks, so bring all the family to officially start

the festive holiday.

Keep an eye out for a big Christmas promotional campaign shouting about all things Christmas in Coventry too including events and offers from Coventry BID, Coventry City of Culture and partners right across the city. Keep updated at visitcoventry.co.uk

Housing review to target most in need

A review of the way social housing is allocated in the city is underway.

The Council does not own any homes, but has agreements with housing associations to allocate their homes through Coventry Homefinder.

Around 14,000 households are registered and housing agencies believe more needs to be done to ensure that those most in need receive social housing.

Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing and Homelessness at the Council, said a review is necessary because of an increase in demand.

He said:

“We are running a consultation from 11 November until 3 January as we have ideas we would like to propose to change the way the service works.”

“We want the scheme to be less complicated and time consuming for applicants and ensure properties go to those in greatest need.”

Proposals also include that those assessed as ‘adequately housed’ will no longer be registered.

Jim added:

“We need to make sure the scheme works more effectively and gives priority to those who are homeless, who need to move on welfare or medical grounds, or who are facing particular hardship.”

To take part in the consultation, visit coventry.gov.uk/homefinder2019 email housingstrategy@coventry.gov.uk or call 024 7683 4024

Personal independence payment scheme

Advice Agencies in Coventry are working together to try to ensure that more people benefit from a scheme to support them financially in overcoming difficulties with daily living and/or mobility.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit paid to adults (18 to pension age at date of claim) who experience difficulties with a health problem that is causing them difficulties

with everyday life or getting around. It replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

This benefit is available to people who have savings and to people who are working as well as those on benefits.

If you have a health problem which has continued for the last 3 months and which you expect to continue for at least another nine months and which is causing you to have difficulties in taking part in

everyday life or in getting around then you should consider a claim.

Adults can start a claim by ringing 0800 917 2222.

You can get more advice about PIP claims visit www.coventrycitizensadvice.org.uk or Coventry Independent Advice Service covadvice.org.uk

If your case proceeds to an appeal you can be represented by Coventry Law Centre www.centralelandlc.org.uk

Early advice to aid social care

From November Coventry’s Adult Social Care will be introducing an Initial Contact Service to make sure the right advice and support is given at the earliest opportunity.

The service will focus on finding out what people’s strengths and talents are so the support provided can help people to live fulfilled lives and stay independent for longer.

If you need to contact Adult Social Care call 024 7683 3003 or email ASCDirect@coventry.gov.uk

Free benefits advice

Coventry’s ‘welfare reform working together group’ is warning people to watch out for ‘charged for’ benefits advice services.

The last 10 years have seen massive reform in the benefits system. This has led to a rise in ‘charged for’ advice services that take advantage of vulnerable people who don’t know what to do by charging them for various levels of support.

Fortunately, in Coventry, there are several free sources of advice that are accredited, accountable and independent.

Citizens Advice offer free, independent, impartial and

confidential advice on a wide range of issues. Advice is available face-to-face, by phone and, in most cases, by email.

Other trusted advice sources include the Central England Law Centre, Coventry Independent Advice Services (CIAS) and Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire, as well as other smaller community organisations.

Homes for street homeless

A national project being piloted in Coventry and across the West Midlands region, helping people who are homeless and rough sleeping, is beginning to make an impact in the city.

Housing First is helping to provide both accommodation and wraparound support for rough sleepers – often vulnerable, homeless people with multiple and complex needs.

The government-funded pilot scheme is operated across The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) area and is

running in Coventry for three years.

The new service is operated by Midlands-based organisation Brighter Futures and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In Coventry it is working with partners at ARC CIC (a drug and alcohol outreach service) and Coventry City Council.

29 people have already been accepted onto the scheme in the city and five have been earmarked for properties with wraparound services to support them once they are in the property.

The scheme is funded to work with, and support up to 109 rough sleepers in Coventry.

Cllr Tariq Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, said:

“We’re absolutely committed to working with agencies to address homelessness. I hope that these people who are being assisted through the scheme are the first of many.”



Get stuck into city stickers

A Coventry business is looking to celebrate the city’s landmarks, businesses and attractions with the launch of the Coventry Sticker Album.

Aaron Ashmore, owner of Etch & Pin, believes the Sticker Album is a fun way of showing the world

how much history and culture Coventry has.

Aaron said the project has been a huge task to complete. The 35-year-old said: “This is a chance to reconnect with your youth and remember the satisfaction of completing a sticker book whilst

celebrating the city of Coventry at the same time.”

The Sticker Album brings together 100 stickers of different landmarks and attractions from across the city over 28 pages. These will be released across 11 sticker packs which are being



released over the course of the next 12 months. At the end of the year, your Sticker Album will be complete.

Etch & Pin are also responsible for a series of Coventry pin badges that have been released monthly since July 2018 which celebrate landmarks such as Coventry Ring Road, Lady Godiva and Coventry Cathedral.

Aaron said:

“Ever since we released the badges, people have been asking us what is next! We think the Sticker Album is the perfect companion to our pin badges and we can’t wait to see people’s reaction to it.”

Funding boost for city firm

A Coventry manufacturer’s expansion plans have been given a boost after receiving grant-funding.

Sarginsons Industries, which is an automotive world leader in lightweighting, has been awarded a £50,000 capital grant that will be part of an overall investment of £260,000 on technology and equipment.

The grant has been awarded by the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) and is part financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the Coventry City Council Business Support Programme.

Sarginsons is investing in a complete new sand foundry, two new gas recuperation furnaces, automated finishing equipment and material handling equipment.

It will lead to the creation of at least five new jobs.

Anthony Evans, Managing Director of the company, said:

“This grant funding means we can accelerate our plans so we are extremely grateful for the support we have received from Coventry City Council and the CWLEP through the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Support Programme.”



■ Pictured (left to right): Councillor Jim O’Boyle, Anthony Evans (Sarginsons), Annette Milton (Sarginsons), Kevin Brierley (Sarginsons)

£18m grant for Battery Industrialisation Centre in Coventry

A £126m battery facility to keep the West Midlands at the forefront of the automotive industry has been aided by an £18m repayable grant from the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC) in Coventry will be key in growing industrial battery manufacturing capability in the UK.

The repayable grant of £18m will help ensure UKBIC has the

latest technology to attract top-tier automotive manufacturers and research and development companies.

UKBIC is a new national open access industrialisation facility supporting the national and

regional industrial strategy to focus on UK design, development and manufacture of battery technology.



Cathedral to light up in remembrance

Coventry Cathedral will join St Paul's in London as part of a spectacular light show to honour the country's heritage and the wartime bravery of its people this November.

Where Light Falls is a project from Historic England that will use light and poetry to tell the story of the people who risked their lives to preserve historic buildings during the Second World War.

Coventry Cathedral will be illuminated on 14-16 November, falling on the 79th anniversary of the Blitz that destroyed the Cathedral.

Councillor Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Events, said:

"The Cathedral is one of our most iconic buildings and it's important that we continue to remember and honour its important place in our history."

Historic England is working with the Poetry Society and Double Take Projections to tell the stories.

The free Coventry light shows will run from 5pm-9pm each night, and visitors can drop-in to see the display at any point between these times.

A spokesperson for Historic England said:

"Out of the destruction of the Blitz, and resilience that came with the



WHERE LIGHT FALLS



■ Pictured: Caludon Castle students with their teacher who are working with the Poetry Society as part of the project

City loses one of its last D-Day veterans

The founder of a Coventry based peace education charity has passed away, aged 96.

Dennis Davison, who set up Normandy Day UK in his late '80s after spending 10 years living in Normandy, died on 1 October.

The decorated D-Day veteran was a larger than life character who was loved by several Coventry schools, where he became 'living history', regaling young audiences with wartime stories.

His aim was always to encourage young people to be everyday peace-makers. His daughter, Heather Davison, said,

"Dad will be remembered for the laughter, fun and friendship he shared with so many of us."

In the last few years Dennis has been awarded the Légion d'Honneur by the French government for his contribution to the Normandy Campaign and his work with the French Resistance. He was also awarded a British Empire Medal by the Queen for his services to the voluntary sector.



post-war rebuilding of a new cathedral, Coventry established itself as a City of Peace and Reconciliation."

The Poetry Society worked with poets Jane Commans in Coventry and Keith Jarrett in London and local participants,

including schoolchildren, to create crowd-sourced poems based on the war-time stories of the two cathedrals.

The poems will be beamed onto the walls of the buildings by a team of architectural projection artists.

For more information go to historicengland.org.uk or follow #wherelightfalls



■ Pictured: Councillors Patricia Hetherton and Lynnette Kelly along with staff and pupils from West Coventry Academy.

Scheme tackles safety fears

Pupils from West Coventry Academy helped create a newly installed road safety measure on Tile Hill Lane.

The work follows concerns about students walking between two bus stops especially during levels of high traffic.

The measures, were designed after close collaboration between councillors, pupils and the Council's Highway Team.

A central pedestrian refuge which will provide a safe waiting area is part of the road layout.

Cllr Patricia Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services, said:

"Ensuring our roads are safe, particularly outside our schools, remains a top priority for us."

"Our Highways Team was delighted to work with the students."

Cllr Lynnette Kelly, who supported the scheme, said:

"The lack of safe crossing has been an issue for a while and I'm glad that the Council has responded to local concerns."

Taking steps to tackle rough sleeping

A project that aims to help rough sleepers off the streets in Coventry by offering a daily one stop advice and support venue has been expanded.

Steps for Change was first set up in Coventry city centre two years ago and has now moved to a vacant shop in City Arcade where street homeless people can call in for a hot drink, food and the chance to talk to agencies in a safe space.

Until recently it operated weekly on Thursdays but now it has moved to a much larger city centre venue and is open for five days a week from 11am until 3pm.

Steps for Change is made up of agencies including the ARC, Crisis skylight, Salvation Army, Langar Aid, Coventry City Council and Coventry Partnership Team.

Money saving recycling plan

A new Material Recycling Facility serving Coventry and the wider region could be built in the city.

As Coventry City Council doesn't produce enough waste on its own to make running such a facility viable, the proposed scheme is backed by Coventry with the support of five neighbouring local authorities.

Councillor Patricia Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services, said:

"By opening this facility and taking greater control over the process, we can cut significant costs."

"It will make the recycling process more efficient and environmentally-friendly."

We also hope that this will eventually enable us to raise our recycling rates."

Councillor John Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, said:

"We're always looking for ways to deliver the same services in the most cost-effective way possible and investing in the project makes sense."

The report estimates that the facility would save Coventry City Council around £850,000 per year.



■ Pictured: Cllr David Welsh and the Lord Mayor visited the Steps for Change venue and met with partner agencies

Louise Morley, from the Arc drug and alcohol outreach service, said:

"It's exciting, the number of agencies supporting the project is growing as is the number of customers using the service."

Karen Gannon, Programme Manager, Steps for Change, based with the Salvation Army, said:

"Different agencies are bringing a range of experience together. People should call in and see what we do."

Cllr David Welsh, Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, added:

"Steps for Change is an important scheme and is having a big impact on the welfare of rough sleepers."

Capping off a day of civic pride

Three students from Longford Park Primary School spent a day as the city's civic leader when they became Lord Mayor for a Day.

Yusuf Shah, Dania Karim and Usaymah Arfan all aged 10 looked the part as they stood for their formal photo to mark the occasion.

City of Coventry Lord Mayor, Cllr Linda Bigham met the youngsters and took them on a tour of the Council House and St Mary's Guildhall.

Cllr Bigham said

"Yusuf, Dania and Usaymah are a credit to their school. I hope it may inspire them to see the value of working for the community, and to make a difference for local people."



School traffic-free trial

A street in Coventry was transformed into a traffic-free space outside a school in Hillfields to promote more active travel.

St Mary and St Benedict Primary School was closed off during picking up and dropping off time.

The closure was organised by walking and cycling charity Sustrans in partnership with Coventry City Council following discussions with residents living around the school. Recent evidence suggests that just two per cent of primary school children in England cycle into

school compared to 49 per cent in the Netherlands.

One in four cars on the road during the morning rush hour are on the school run, despite the average primary school journey being just 1.6 miles.

During the street closure Sustrans used specialist equipment to measure improvements in air quality which will be reported to the Council.



New city venue is making a splash

Coventry's great new waterpark, The Wave, has opened its slides to thrill-seekers. The fantastic new £36.7m visitor attraction right in the heart of the city features a collection of high adrenaline rides as well as areas to chill-out, relax or even work out! There's something for all the family, so make sure you go along and take the plunge!

Coventry has welcomed its newest visitor attraction – and it's already making quite a splash!

The Wave is a great new waterpark, full of daring rides and family fun, and the first brave visitors to tackle slides with names like Cascade, Riptide and Torrent, have given it a massive thumbs-up.

The slides feature the latest technology to provide plenty of thrills, but the centre also boasts a lazy river, a beach café and a 25m pool, as well as a luxurious spa and a state of the art fitness suite.



The Wave comes hot on the heels of the Go Ape attraction which launched at Coombe Abbey Park this summer and the new Footgolf course at the War Memorial Park, as well as other city centre attractions such as new bars and restaurants which are creating a real buzz around Coventry.

Its launch comes as part of Coventry's year as European City of Sport and its Year of Wellbeing, giving people even more chances to have fun being active and healthy.

And to help make sure Coventry people don't miss out, there are great discounts available to all Go CV card-holders, so make sure you register for yours at www.go-cv.co.uk or at **The Wave**. See page 19 for further details.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport at Coventry City Council, (pictured opposite page with Paul Breed, Chief Executive, CV Life), said:

"The Wave is a fantastic new addition to our city, and it is brilliant to see

people going through the doors and enjoying what is set to become a vital part of Coventry life.

"As a Council we are determined to give everyone in our city the chance to improve their health and wellbeing and to bring in great new attractions to excite residents and visitors. We are building a better, healthier city, and The Wave is a very important part of that work."

If daring rides aren't for you, then why not visit the fitness suite, with 120 individual stations, 70 fitness classes a week, lane swimming, a group exercise studio, indoor group cycling studio and squash courts.

There's also the Mana Spa, which is made up of a herbal steam room, spa pool, aromatic room, sauna, foot spa and three treatment rooms.

For opening times, prices and online booking to make sure you beat the queues, visit the website at www.thewavecoventry.com

No need for a brolly



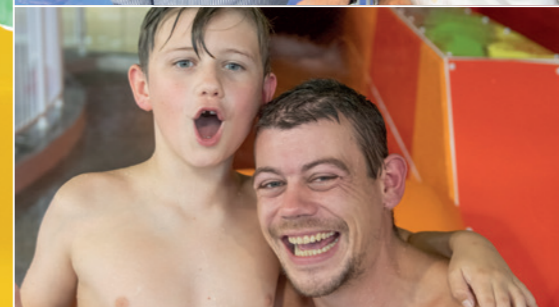
Thumbs up from first visitors

Dozens of people have been trying out The Wave for the very first time and the feedback has been 'splash'-tacular.

Thrillseekers and fun swimmers have been sliding, plunging, and hurling down an array of rides as the The Wave opened its doors for the first time.

Here's a colourful selection of what people can enjoy at the multi-million pound venue.

Visitors included Coventry Dynamite Cheerleaders, Imogen, Esme and Lori who said: "Oh my goodness it's amazing. I love how it's not just a straight line. It curls and everything".



The Cascade
A fully enclosed slide that sweeps riders through large sections of coloured light.

The Rapids
A 'water-coaster' where powerful jets hurl riders uphill before dropping them down through tight corners and tunnels

The Riptide
Sliders grab a tyre and are launched from one of the highest points of The Wave.

The Crestar
Two giant spheres that use lighting effects and other surprises to delight sliders

The Cyclone
Riders whirl around an open bowl before dropping in to the pool below!

The Torrent
Only for the brave – the floor beneath you disappears and you plunge to ground level.

P Car Parking
To help your visit to The Wave go as smoothly as possible, there's a brand new 600 space car-park just yards from the front door!
The Salt Lane multi-storey is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and has 18 electric vehicle charging points and 37 disabled parking bays. People visiting The Wave can claim significant discounts on parking at Salt Lane – for example four hour parking reducing from £8 to just £3.50. The car park only takes cashless payments.

Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 Update



WE ARE UK CITY OF CULTURE 2021

Coventry City of Culture Trust Chief Executive Martin Sutherland shares an update on what the team has been up to in preparation for an amazing 2021 and beyond...

As we head toward our year as UK City of Culture, we've been focusing on fundraising to help ensure we put on a fantastic programme for the people of Coventry.

In the last few months we've successfully secured funding from a variety of sources, including £4 million from The West Midlands Combined Authority.

Continuing our commitment to environmental sustainability, we have also secured £2.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a series of projects focused on protecting and developing Coventry's outdoor spaces for the benefit of everyone. These projects will celebrate stories from the people of Coventry, grow our social connections, and develop our green knowledge and skills.

Investing in the people of the city is key to our plans for 2021 and will help ensure that the cultural scene continues to thrive beyond our year as UK City of Culture. While our creative team is currently working with artists, individuals and organisations across the city to develop an ambitious programme of events, we've also been working behind the scenes to ensure we're equipping citizens with the right skills to thrive beyond 2021.



For example, we're working on a gold-standard apprenticeship programme, due to launch in early 2020. This will create opportunities for predominantly young people in Coventry to access training and employment in the cultural sector, playing an important part of bringing the 2021 programme to life.

There will be many more updates coming in winter months and beyond, so make sure you are signed up to our newsletter at www.coventry2021.co.uk so that you don't miss a thing.

Our Festive Programme

The weather may have taken a turn for the worse, but it's not all bad. The changing seasons means its time to start getting festive!

We've got a fantastic Festive Programme to keep your winter months filled with activity – from a Carnival of Lights in celebration of Diwali to a beautiful lighting installation taking over Broadgate, there's sure to be something for everyone.

Visit www.coventry2021.co.uk/festive-programme for more information.

Bolly Brollies, photo: Hello Content.



The Creative Team

All of our producers are now in post and have been very busy meeting people and getting out and about across the city. You can find out more about who they are and what they do, plus how you can get in touch with them on our website. Just visit www.coventry2021.co.uk/producers to find out more.

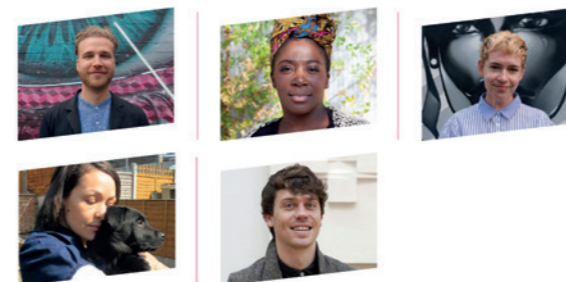
Collaborative City Team



Caring City Team



Dynamic City Team



Culture Conversations

We're holding regular get-togethers to have conversations about the amazing breadth of cultural activity going on in Coventry.

Culture Conversations started as a monthly morning event on 10 September and will continue on the second Tuesday of every month at 8am in Albert's Café, The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum.

We'll also be holding evening events in venues across the city.

Please keep your eye on our website – www.coventry2021.co.uk/culture-conversations for more information.

Stay in touch with all things 2021

We try to keep Coventry up to date with everything that's going on at 2021 HQ through our newsletter and social media channels.

However we know that not everyone is able to get online. So, if this is you, and you'd love to be kept in the loop, please give us a call on 02476 998 221 and choose option 3, and our marketing team will help you out.



Getting fit while doing good

GoodGym Coventry, which is jointly funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and Coventry City Council, doesn't have treadmills, cross-trainers, weights or a physical building.

Instead, members run to get fit and stop off to help people and community projects on the way.

The social movement was set up for local people to get active and use their energy on doing good deeds.

Members run to do voluntary work for community organisations, and also support isolated older people with social visits and one-off tasks they can't do on their own. This work is carried out in association with Coventry City Council and Age UK.

GoodGym Coventry was launched six months ago, and has completed more than 400 deeds to help community projects.

■ Pictured: GoodGym members clearing an outside area for the residents at Eric Williams House, a care home for older people living with dementia.

GP surgery backs wellbeing campaign

Events large and small have taken place throughout the year to encourage people to do more to look after their wellbeing, and to improve links between people and organisations.

Phoenix Family Health Care in Stivichall hosted an information event for patients and carers when they held a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.

Practice Manager Lenka Weatherson said:

"Everyone is different, and needs to find the best way for them to take care of themselves and their wellbeing."

To find out more, visit www.yearofwellbeing.org.uk and www.phoenixfamilycare.nhs.uk

New website on sexual health

A new website offering a single point for information on sexual health has been launched in Coventry.

The website www.ishs.org.uk is run by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust and aims to ensure everyone can find and access sexual health services available in their area.

It contains resources, including information on contraception and testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs); support for HIV; as well as more general advice and information.

People are directed to services offered at GP surgeries, pharmacies and specialist sexual health services in their area.

Songbird tune for Jan

Angie Jones, whose mother Jan was diagnosed with terminal cancer, has recorded a charity single, 'Songbird', to raise funds for the Specialist Palliative Care Team who cared for Jan at her home in Coventry.



■ Pictured: Debbie Nash, Head of Specialist Palliative Care, accepts the new syringe driver from Angie and her family

The aim was to raise a minimum of £2,000 - enough funds to purchase a specialist syringe driver.

Angie explained:

"We have finally found the best way to raise funds using the song I recorded for mum. As a family we really cannot thank enough the team involved with my mum's care. It was only natural that we wanted to support the service and the charity by helping raise the money needed to purchase this syringe driver."

To make a donation visit www.uhcwcharity.org or contact UHCW Charity on 024 7696 6059.

Seamus smoke-free after quitting 20 year habit

If you need inspiration to help kick a smoking habit, then Cllr Seamus Walsh is proof that quitting is possible for everyone.



Cllr Walsh packed in the habit and has been smoke-free for the last 12 months after smoking up to 40 a day for 20 years.

It was only after meeting the Stop Smoking Team in Morrisons supermarket on Holyhead Road in his Sherbourne ward, that he found the support and help he needed to start his smoking cessation journey.

In August 2018 Cllr Walsh was diagnosed with malignant throat cancer. He was told smoking was a big contributing factor.

Cllr Walsh started his smoke-free treatment ahead of receiving treatment for cancer. He started a 12-week programme of patches and received face to face support. He said:

"The first time I put the patches on, it was the first time I had chemotherapy." Cllr Walsh is now on the road to recovery after chemotherapy and radiotherapy. He added:

"Within a month of quitting I noticed I no longer had that niggly cough and my breathing was really starting to improve. I was spending around £20 a day and now I have more to spend on my grandchildren and I enjoy that. Miracles do happen! I couldn't have given up smoking without the support of the Stop Smoking Team at Morrisons."

For more information on local stop smoking services contact healthy lifestyles on: 0800 122 3780 or email: info@hlscoventry.org.

Talking could save a life

Healthcare partners are increasing their efforts to raise awareness of suicide prevention and mental health.

One person every 90 minutes dies by suicide in the UK and approximately two thirds of these are not in contact with mental health services.

Dr Sharon Binyon, Medical Director at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, is keen for services to come together to encourage people to seek help and start conversations around suicide, focusing on early warning signs and coping strategies.

She said:

"There is support that is out there. We need to encourage people to talk about their feelings."

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Coventry City Council, Liz Gaulton, added:

"Mental health is not talked about enough and we want everyone in our city to feel they have someone to talk to, feel confident in doing so, and know that help is available."

FINDING HELP

■ Samaritans
www.samaritans.org
or call 116123 free,
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

■ Mental Health Matters
www.mhm.org.uk/helpine-webchat or call 0800 616171
text 07786 202242
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

■ Childline
www.childline.org.uk
or call 0800 1111 free
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

■ Every Mind Matters
Public Health England
www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters

■ It Takes Balls to Talk
www.ittakesballstotalk.com

■ Coventry and Warwickshire Improving Access to Psychological Therapy (APT) Service
www.covwarpt.nhs.uk/iapt
or call 024 7667 1090
Mon to Fri 9am-5pm

■ Coventry & Warwickshire MIND
www.cwmind.org.uk
or call 0300 123 3393
text 86463, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

Gym with a view

New noticeboards, activity routes and distance markers have been installed across Coventry parks and green spaces.



Coventry on the Move in Parks aims to help all ages and abilities improve their physical activity levels and have some fun.

Recently, brand new paths have also been installed in Edgwick Park, Morris Common, Caludon Park and Quinton Pool

– along with specialist outdoor gym equipment.

Cllr Kamran Caan (pictured with Stoke Heath Primary School staff and pupils) was at Morris Common to check out the work-out stations, while Cllr Rois Ali (pictured inset) tried out new

equipment at Quinton Pool. Both councillors have responsibility for sport and public health in the city. Cllr Ali said:

"It's a great way to get active. There's no cost to use it and anyone can have a go."

Encouraging wider participation key to success of city's sporting year

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

Coventry has been reflecting on a successful year as European City of Sport with thousands of people getting active. All age groups and abilities have been taking part in dozens of free events. Health benefits of sport are well documented, and Coventry intends to build on its great sporting pedigree in years to come. Here is a flavour of what's been going on.

Summer of Sport success

Summer in Coventry has been packed full of sport and physical activity with events being held all over the city suitable for all ages, abilities and interests.

July saw the opening of the health and fitness suites at The Wave and of course Coventry's annual musical festival, Godiva. City of Sport took over the family area this year with a Go CV Sports Zone which showcased entertainment, sports, activities and health advice from various charities and organisations. The adapted MENCAP bikes and Vodafone's Gigafast Broadband games were both a big hit.

August welcomed Sports Fest once again which was bigger and better than any previous years as a celebration of the city's title. Many City of Sport Community Festivals took place during August too which were focused on targeting communities and getting them as active as possible for free.

September boasted a variety of Community Festivals too, but also brought HSBC UK Let's Ride, Go Canley's Bridge Day and the Coventry City of Sport Challenge Launch. Each event has seen great success and response from the people of Coventry – watch out for more coming soon.



Thousands getting active

Almost 10 months into Coventry's year as European City of Sport, and there have been record numbers of people getting active. A huge variety of ages and abilities have been taking part in an exciting events calendar that is ever-growing.

Being named City of Sport had an immediate positive impact on the city. It has brought together communities within the city, especially recognising the enjoyment that people get from participation in sport. The events calendar features a huge mix of activities ranging in size and covering locations across the city. At Sports Fest this year, there were 15,000 people taking part.

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

"City of Sport aims to continue the success we have seen so far and bring even more fantastic events to the city for Coventry people to enjoy, and to involve as many sports clubs, groups and schools as possible. So far it has been fantastic showing Coventry residents that you can be active and enjoy yourself at the same time."



City of Sport's going out with a bang

Coventry's year as European City of Sport will soon be coming to an end, but this will not be the end of fantastic sporting opportunities in the city.

In the new year to give everyone that post-Christmas motivation they need to get active again more sporting events are to be planned. The finale is in the making and will not disappoint. There will be a whole week of city-wide sport to kickstart

another year of getting active and to prepare for another celebratory year in 2021 as City of Culture.

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

"As always, the events will be suitable for all so as many people can be as involved as possible. The finale will impress all and I can't wait to see sport being continued after 2019."

Velo Birmingham and Midlands returns



Velo Birmingham and Midlands is returning on Sunday 21 June 2020 and the 100-mile entries are now open.

2020 will mark the third year of this cycling event in Coventry that saw 18,000 people attend this year. The riders will experience stunning countryside, panoramic

views, picturesque villages and iconic climbs on their 100-mile ride, where they will pass through our city at the half-way mark.

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

"There is also a 42-mile option that tickets will go on sale for in the new year, with Coventry being its finish line. I really look forward to seeing this happen next year to continue our legacy of sport in the city."

To secure your place head to www.velobirmingham.com/the-ride and enter now

Festival of Running to return

After another successful year, the Festival of Running will be returning in 2020, with a series of events including the Coventry Half Marathon, Children's Mile and Go Run 5K.

The return of the festival will be welcomed in 2020 following our year as European City of Sport and part of the city's effort to maintain sport and physical activity in Coventry.

In 2019, over 6,000 people took part in the whole festival enjoying another opportunity to get active in Coventry and fundraising over £100,000 for charities. Over 2,000 participants were children from Coventry Schools.

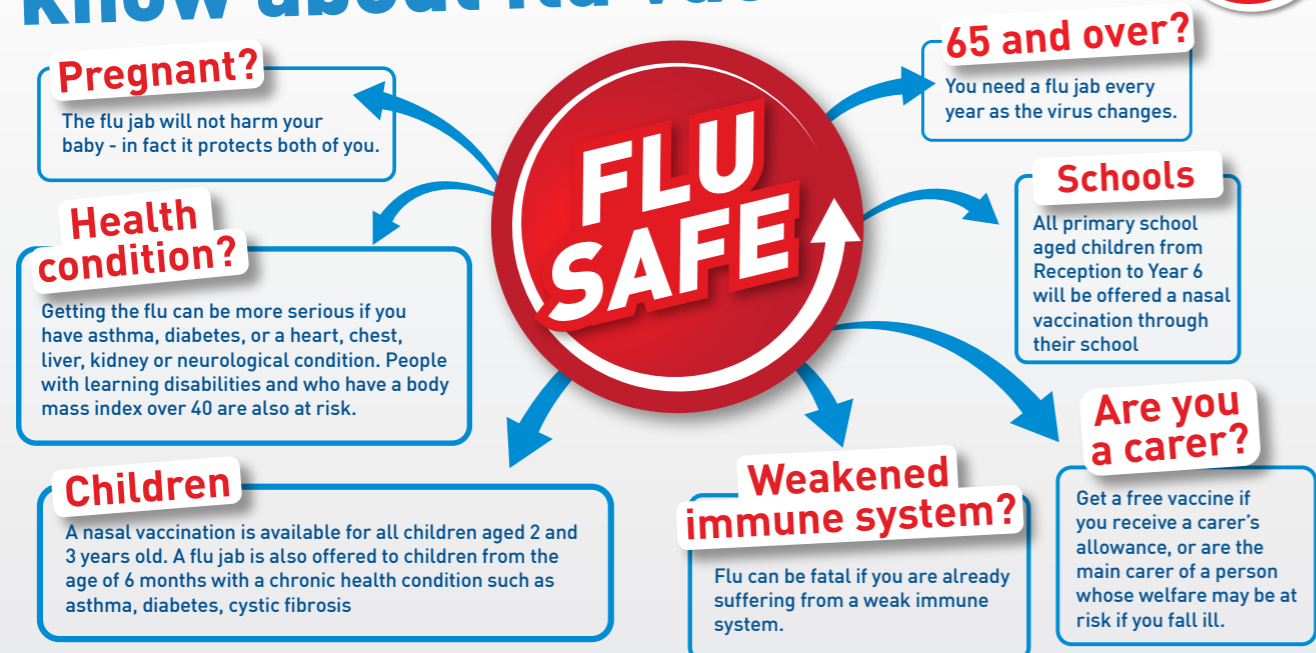
www.enjoycoventry.com/festivalofrunning



DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Children's Mile
Sunday 22 March
Coventry Half Marathon
and Go Run 5k
Sunday 5 April 2020

Everything you need to know about flu vaccines!



Contact your GP or Pharmacy today.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flu
www.coventry.gov.uk/flujab



Christmas bin collection

Our crews won't be working over Christmas so there will be **NO collections in the week beginning Monday 23 December.**

BUT there will be an

- ▶ **EXTRA household (green-lidded bin) waste collection** to help out over the festive period.
- ▶ **We will also be delivering extra clear sacks** for any extra recycling you might have.



Look out for your collection calendar and clear sacks coming soon.

Celebrating 25 years of Heritage Open Days



Coventry marked a quarter of a century of annual events reflecting on the city's rich history recently.

Cities across the country help celebrate the Heritage Days and national organisers came to Coventry to take a look at the sites and venues that it opens to the public.

To mark the 25 year milestone local participants, volunteers and representatives from the national organisers came together in the 14th Century St Mary's Guildhall.

The city's first heritage open days saw Draper's Hall, The Herbert, Coventry Transport Museum (then known as The Museum of British Road

Transport) and Holy Trinity Church opened up. From small beginnings the event in Coventry has grown to over 50 venues opening for FREE across the 10 days of the event.

New venues and activities have been added, including behind the scenes tours of the Council House, a look inside Swanswell

Gate and a children's Heritage Explorer Trail with a FREE badge once completed!

Roger Bailey, Blue Badge Tourist Guide and co-organiser said:

"Heritage Open Days has expanded from just a weekend to 10 days annually and in Coventry has grown year on year, bringing in visitors from all over the country to see the treasures we have here.

We are very proud of all the volunteers and venues that have taken part who helped grow the event and showcase what a great city Coventry is."

■ Pictured from left to right: Annabelle Thorpe, National Heritage Open Day Manager, Roger Bailey, Lord Mayor Cllr Linda Bigham, Ana Gillespie, City of Culture Team, Karen Aspin, Coventry City Council, Mehru Fitter, Secretary for the Positive Images Festival

Coventry residents save more with go CV



If you live in Coventry a FREE Go CV card will get you

- discounted entry to The Wave
- FREE entry to Coventry Transport Museum
- reductions on fitness sessions and membership

Collect your card from The Wave, The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry Transport Museum, Centre AT7, Xcel Leisure Centre, Alan Higgs Centre and the Council's Customer Service Centre and register your details online.

Once your account is validated, you're ready to make savings!

You can validate your details at any of the above locations. If you're named on your Council Tax bill your address will automatically be validated. Council Customer Service Centre staff are happy to help anyone having problems doing this from 9-1pm Monday – Friday.

To register and find out more www.go-cv-co.uk

A team of mechanics who repair and restore the incredible collection at the Coventry Transport Museum has received a major boost.

Manufacturer Baileigh Industrial has given the museum £35,000 worth of high-quality metalworking equipment to help its work on various projects.

Machines include a lathe, milling machine, pillar drill, band saw and a metal press and will see the museum upskilling its workshop volunteers to operate the modern kit.

Baileigh Industrial, which is based in Rugby, designs and manufactures industrial metalworking and woodworking machinery, and is known in the industry for cutting-edge designs as well as quality machinery and customer service.

Boost for museum mechanics



■ Pictured (left to right): Gary McCarthy, Pete Fuller and Roger Wilson are all ready to use the new Baileigh equipment at Coventry Transport Museum

Parks are all set for winter

Some of the activities you can enjoy in and around Coventry



COOMBE ABBEY PARK

Unless otherwise stated, the meeting point for all events is the Information Desk/Shop in the Visitor Centre five minutes before session begins. Advance booking and payment is essential for all events unless otherwise stated. All bookings are taken online at www.coventry.gov.uk/coombeevents. Once a booking has been made, we require 48hrs notice to be able to give a refund. Please note that car parking charges apply. All children need to be accompanied by an adult.

WAR MEMORIAL PARK

Unless otherwise stated, the meeting point is the Education Room in the Visitor Centre five minutes before the session begins. Advance booking and payment essential for all events unless otherwise stated. All bookings are taken online at www.coventry.gov.uk/wmpevents. Once a booking has been made, we require 48hr notice to be able to give a refund. All children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Tot Waddles

every Friday
10.30am-12noon
£4 per child, booking not essential.
Come and meet the Education Team for some fun in the park. Listen to a story and have some outdoor fun before coming inside for some arts and crafts. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Suitable for two to four-year-olds. (younger siblings can accompany brothers and sisters for free but be aware that activities are aimed at two years and above.) All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

PARK RANGERS

Volunteer with the Park Rangers every third Wednesday in the calendar month.
10.30am – 3pm.
FREE at various locations
Good fresh air and healthy exercise! Join the Park Service Rangers and help look after and develop Coventry's green spaces. Bring your own lunch if staying all day. Come once, come every time or just come when it suits you.
All volunteers must register in advance.
For further information, contact Simon tel: 07831 582854.
Email: simon.holloway@coventry.gov.uk
Suitable for adults and accompanied teenagers.

NOVEMBER

2 | Autumnal floral workshop
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
10am – 12noon
£17.50 per person, suitable for 15 years plus. Limited places available. Booking essential. Have you ever wanted to have a go at creating your own autumnal inspired table decoration? Why not join us and using the natural materials provided create your own stunning arrangement to take home. Limited places are available.

23 | Walk of light
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
5pm – 6pm
£4.25 per person, suitable for families, however please note only natural flaming torchlight will be used so please bring small children and pushchairs at your own risk. Booking essential. Come and experience the park in a different light, with stories and marshmallows around the fire. Why not call in to the Café in the Park after for dinner or a hot drink and refreshments?

24 | Willow workshop – Stars
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
10am – 2pm
£35 per person Suitable for adults and over 15s new to willow weaving you just need enthusiasm and a little dexterity with your hands. All materials provided. Booking essential. Limited spaces available. Come and weave yourself natural festive stars. You will gain an introduction to working with willow and will make at least two willow stars (approx. 12") to take home. You will be guided step by step and with guidance you can make your stars unique by using different weaving techniques. You will get to use a mix of natural willow colours. Refreshments provided but please bring own lunch.

30 | Wreath making
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
9.30am – 11.30am and 1pm – 3pm
£19.50 per person, Suitable for 15 years and over, Limited spaces available. Booking essential. Create your own handmade Christmas welcome wreath using natural materials. This is a perfect activity for catching up with friends and family.

DECEMBER
1 | Logs and cones
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
11am – 12noon
£5 per child. Suitable for 3 years plus. Booking essential. Come and have some festive fun creating Christmas decorations for your home using natural materials.

1 – 24 | Snowman trail
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
10am – 2.30pm
£2 per trail sheet. Suitable for families. Why not pick up a trail leaflet to help you find the snowmen hidden in the park? Each snowman will give you a clue on how to open Santa's safe and collect your prize. Please allow at least an hour.

Christmas charity cards on sale
The Midland Charities Association Christmas card shop returns until **Thursday 19 December** in the Allesley Park Community Library, on the corner of Winsford Avenue and Whitaker Road. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact: **Mal Haddon** 024 7646 4530 or 07506 702446 e: dr.haddon@btinternet.com

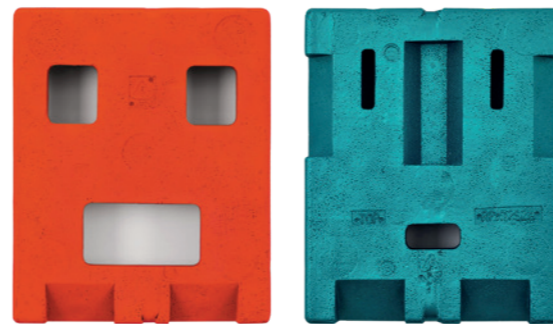
7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 | Santa's Countdown to Christmas
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
10am – 3pm on open days
£9.50 per child. Suitable for families. Booking essential. Come and meet Santa in his Grotto and make some Christmas crafts with the Elves to take home. Each paying child will receive a small gift. Under 1's free if accompanied by a paying sibling.

FEBRUARY 2020
15 February – 1 March | Spring time trail
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
10am – 2.30pm
£2 per trail sheet, suitable for families
25 | Big Birds' Breakfast
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
11am – 12noon
£4.25 per child, suitable for 4 years plus. Booking essential. Come along and make a variety of unique, yummy meals for the birds to enjoy in your garden.

26 | Pet Bug Rocks
COOMBE ABBEY PARK
1pm – 2pm
£4.25 per child, suitable for 3 years plus. Booking essential. Come and join us as we create our very own pet bug rocks to take home.

27 | Big Birds' Breakfast
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1pm – 2pm
See 25 February.

28 | Mad Hatter's Tea Party
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
1.30pm – 2.30pm
£5 per child suitable for 4 years plus. Booking essential. Decorate your own mug and wooden coaster, then create a crazy pretend tea party by making whacky fake party food.



The second Coventry Biennial will feature new and existing artworks in exhibitions, events and activities exploring collaboration and togetherness as well as globalisation and inequality. This year's exhibition, titled 'The Twin' will celebrate Coventry's

relationship with its 26 twin cities, and mark 75 years since the first official twinning of modern cities, which was between Coventry and Volgograd, Russia in 1944. Artworks are being displayed in historic buildings and galleries throughout the city until 24

Celebrating Coventry's global connections

Regional and international artists will celebrate Coventry's global connections when they showcase their work at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum.

November, with the exhibition at the Herbert running until 26 January. Bookings for all events can be made online on a pay what you can basis. For more information visit www.coventrybiennial.com

Famous artists featured at Herbert

A Coventry gallery will showcase artists – including Picasso and Pissarro – who push the boundaries of what it means to draw in an exciting new exhibition.

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum has partnered with The Courtauld Gallery, London to showcase the work of creators who have radically transformed the art of drawing in a new exhibition – *Radical Drawing: Works From Coventry And The Courtauld*.

The exhibition, which runs until 19 January, showcases a series of works from the last 400 years, many of which have never been on show before, including works by George Romney, Camille Pissarro, Pablo Picasso, Art & Language, Barbara Walker and Miriam de Búrca.

Also on display are objects from the Herbert's collections linked to the Courtaulds factory in Coventry, and a film produced for the exhibition featuring former Courtaulds employees talking about their working lives. It will be held on 19 November and tickets are £3 on the door.



For more information visit www.theherbert.org

Success for Bombay Palace



A city restaurant has secured the title Restaurant of the Year in the West Midlands UKBCCI business and entrepreneur excellence awards.

The Bombay Palace has been operating in the Earlsdon area for the past 35 years and the award celebrates its achievements in business and the community.

Vintage sleigh ride and winter wonderland

at the Transport Museum 2 - 23 Dec 2019

WEEKLY OPENING TIMES:

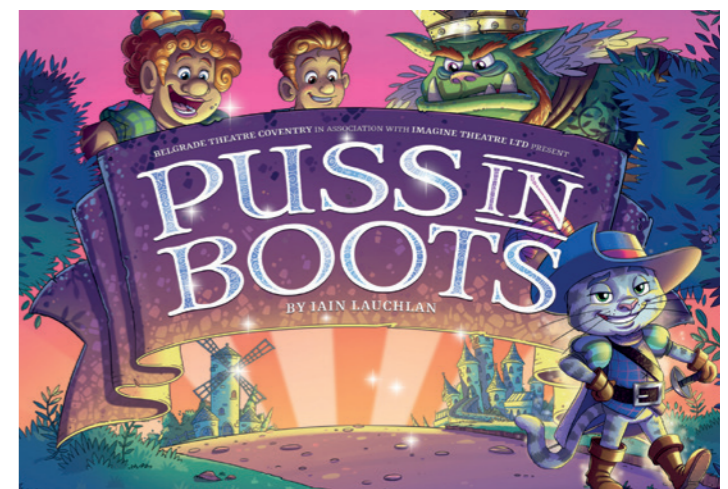
Mon 2 – Fri 6 December	11am – 5pm
Sat 7 – Sun 8 December	9am – 5pm
Mon 9 – Fri 13 December	11am – 6pm
Sat 14 – Sun 15 December	9am – 6pm
Mon 16 – Fri 20 December	11am – 6pm
Sat 21 – Sun 22 December	8am – 6.30pm
Mon 23 Dec	8.30am – 6pm

Please note - During weekends and the last week of Christmas, visitors may be unable to queue for the ride once the queue length has exceeded a waiting capacity of 2.5 hours. Last admittance is 1 hour before the close of the ride. We reserve the right to close the ride at any time during busy periods.

For more details visit www.transport-museum.com

SO, WHAT'S NEW FOR 2019?

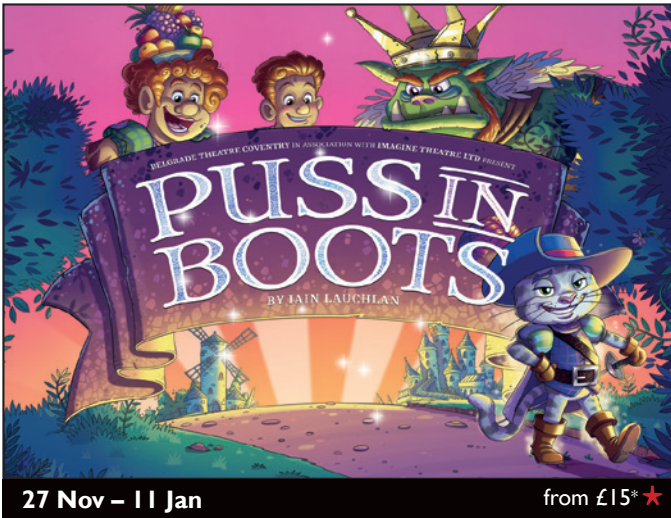
- A walk-through winter wonderland
- A new toy shop experience
- Revised pricing structure
- Reduced admission into the museum for those who want to 'make a day of it'



Wednesday 27 November 2019 - Saturday 11 January 2020

Also, from 11-31 December, the Belgrade's B2 auditorium will play host to **Club 2B**. Expect live music, food and drink, gaming tables and much more in this fully immersive theatrical experience.

For tickets call the box office on 024 7655 3055 or visit www.belgrade.co.uk where prices are cheaper



Look for the ★ to save 20% off the cost of your full price tickets when you book equivalent amounts for two or more participating shows at the same time. See website for further information on ticket prices and other concessions.

BOOK NOW 024 7655 3055 www.belgrade.co.uk

*Ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee. No booking fee applies if booked online.