

# Citivism

News...features...plus more about how the city is responding to COVID-19

Special Edition



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

**This is a very important time for our city.**

It has been an incredibly difficult summer and we have all seen our lives change in so many ways.

There has been much to be proud of as we have reacted as One Coventry in the fight against COVID-19.

Individuals and businesses have made sacrifices and we have worked so well towards an easing of lockdown. Now we are beginning to see the first signs of a more normal lifestyle. That is something to be thankful for.

But it is also something we must not take for granted.

These signs of recovery have been made possible because we have worked so hard, because we have maintained social distancing and missed our loved ones.

Do not let that be in vain.

COVID-19 has not gone away. It will be with us for some time, and we need to continue the fight – and that means following all health advice.

We need to do all we can as there is so much to look forward to with UK City of Culture 2021 and the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

We do not want further restrictions and lockdowns. As we go to press numbers are increasing. We all have to play our part, to stay safe and help others do the same.



*"Thank You NHS and all key workers" messages are on display on bin lorries and other areas in the city as a show of support from the community.*

## Keep up the good work – help our city stay safe

**The Council, health services and partner organisations around the city have united in a call to residents – keep taking safety measures and help prevent another lockdown. Over the summer, people have changed the way they live and work to fight COVID-19 and keep their families and others safe.**

Now, however, fears are growing that people are becoming complacent, meaning a second lockdown may happen.

Recent weeks have seen gatherings that do not observe social distancing rules; people have been meeting more family, friends and neighbours; and cases have started to rise. Also, as the summer comes to an end, the flu and other illnesses will add to the pressure on health services and make people more vulnerable.

At the start of the month, as lockdown measures relaxed, infection rates doubled in just one week, with particular of concern in the CV6 area of the city along the A444 corridor in Holbrooks, Foleshill and Longford.

The fear is that the city may see local lockdowns as in Leicester and the north of England.

The message is clear – keep following the guidelines, stay

safe, and help protect your family, friends and your local community.

Council Leader, Cllr George Duggins said:

*"We do not want to see further lockdowns and restrictions in Coventry. They hurt the city and they hurt us all in our personal lives.*

*"We want people to live their lives as normally as possible, to have fun and to see loved ones and friends, but please do not take risks.*

*"By wearing masks, washing our hands and keeping to social distancing guidelines, we can drive the infection rate down and help our city and the country to a speedy recovery.*

*"Remember, it is not just your health and safety, you are also protecting your loved ones, those in our city who*

*are vulnerable and you are helping our heroes on the frontline, our health and care workers who have done such a brave and fantastic job over the summer."*

Liz Gaulton, Director of Public Health, added:

*"With the continued easing of lockdown restrictions and people moving about and doing more, the risk of catching the virus increases.*

*"COVID-19 will take every opportunity it can to spread and this increase is a reminder that we all have a part to play in containing this virus."*

People with symptoms, no matter how mild, need to self-isolate and seek a test.

There are details in this edition on the Test and Trace service and what to do if you are worried.



# Our changing city centre

Coventry city centre has seen a huge £100m investment this decade – with more to come ahead of the city’s year as City of Culture in 2021.

Since 2011, over £50m has been invested in the city, including the transformation and pedestrianisation of Broadgate, an improved walking route between the railway station and the city centre and work to improve the setting of some of the city’s most beautiful buildings, including Holy Trinity Church.

The former Nationwide building was knocked down to reopen the link between Hertford Street and Broadgate for the first time in over 50 years. It also revealed the 'People of

Coventry' statues by Trevor Tennant, who now look down on a revamped Hertford Street.

Cllr Jim O’Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, said:

*“The city centre is undergoing a big transformation at the moment. We knew it was important when we started – but the work has taken on new importance in the light of the pandemic and it will be vital in helping us kick start the economy.”*

*“We are making the best of the old and the best of the new*

*and all of the materials we are using are top quality, so they will look smart and last. I’m also really pleased to say that we will be including George Wagstaff’s Naiad statue in the Upper Precinct alongside the rediscovered White Lion mosaic.*



## Upper Precinct

Following on from the demolition of the green escalator, work is continuing in the Upper Precinct, with a first look at the new paving in Smithford Way and Market Way. This comes as part of the work to completely revamp the area.

The paving is Portuguese granite and it will help to lift the area, creating a more modern feel. The next steps include adding new benches and creating the planting areas for the new greenery.



## Pop-up cycle schemes to roll out

Plans are underway for pop-up cycle lanes and wider pavements to encourage more cycling and walking, and improve air quality.

The first temporary pop-up cycle lane will link the city centre and the Canal Basin, building on a 40 per cent increase in cycling and walking during lockdown.



## Now you see it, now you don't

Coventry Point is now almost fully demolished. The final stages began at the end of July. The space where the 14-storey building used to stand will then be repaved and opened up to the public. Cllr O’Boyle added,

*“This area is totally transformed and it’s not even fully down yet. But already it’s clear to see what an eyesore it was. The whole area feels better already.”*

## Towpath work will open up canal

In partnership with the Canal & River Trust, the Council began its project to improve the towpath at the end of July, and the full scheme is set to be finished in the spring of 2021.

In some places, the towpath will be widened. It will be resurfaced and overgrown trees will be cut back. Access will be improved along the route so people who live nearby can easily get to it.

With a recent survey by the West Midlands Combined Authority demonstrating that 47% of people expect they will walk more than they did before lockdown, it is hoped that the improvements will help those wanting fresh air and exercise.

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

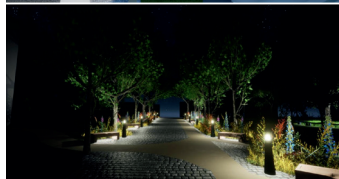
*“During the last few months we’ve seen more and more people take up cycling and more and more people enjoy walking in their local area. We are really lucky to have the canal running through the city and once we have resurfaced the towpath and widened it in sections it will make a great walking and cycling route.”*



## Making a splash in Bull Yard



Workers in Bull Yard have recently finished laying the new gold coloured resin-bonded gravel surface, as well as testing the brand-new water feature, which has over 25 jets and can shoot water up to 3m in the air! Planting will get underway soon and then the children’s play area which will include slides and swings.



## New look to celebrate the past

A new scheme is set to revitalise Coventry Cathedral's Unity Lawn, enhancing the space to create a more inviting spot to enjoy the views of the Cathedral and the surrounding historic architecture.

The project, designed by Studio Morison, will see the existing railings that surround the lawn removed to open the space up, with new benches, lighting, paving and plants to be added. A circular bench will also be added around the largest tree in the lawn, which offers the best view of the Cathedral and the ruins.

All graves and memorial plaques will be preserved and protected, with much of the

new design focusing on the edges and central walkway. The plans also include the intention to uncover a hidden part of Coventry's history; a former Coventry-born gladiator whose monument is currently hidden by shrubbery.

The scheme is funding by the West Midlands Combined Authority and is set to begin in the autumn. It is due to be completed by spring 2021.



## City attractions re-open their doors

The city's attractions have been working hard to welcome back visitors and help everyone feel safe while they're out having fun.

The Wave has now re-opened, along with its Lifestyles gym and Mana Spa. Bookings must be made online and Coventry residents can enjoy reduced prices through Go CV.

See [www.thewavecoventry.com](http://www.thewavecoventry.com)

The Coventry Transport Museum and Herbert Art Gallery and Museum have also re-opened, with new measures in place to make sure visitors and staff are kept safe and able to follow social distancing guidelines. For details of what to expect and to plan your visit, visit the attractions' websites.



## More outside seating

A new temporary pavement licensing policy will help pubs, restaurants and other hospitality venues increase outside seating.

Outdoor seating needs planning and licensing approval, and the Government scheme will fast-track requests for licenses.

Council Licensing Officers are working with businesses to help them to adhere to

social distancing and safety measures that protect both staff, customers and the public.

Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader of Coventry City Council, said:

*"The licence will include conditions that protect the public and ensure that nuisance and antisocial behaviour is prevented."*

## Food hub backing grows



Pictured from L to R- Rachael Land, Buckingham Group; Helen Needham, Feeding Coventry; Sarah Gristwood, Community Resilience Team.

The Coventry Food Network provides thousands of food parcels for local people in need. Especially for people whose financial circumstances have meant that purchasing food has been a struggle.

The Council's Community Resilience Team has secured more than £234,495 in funding bids to help support this work and other local businesses have also provided help.

The Buckingham Group - one of the city's developers, provided

£1250 towards the summer holiday breakfast club, providing breakfasts and activity packs during the summer holidays.

Anyone who would like to donate to the scheme can do so at [feedingbritain.org](http://feedingbritain.org)

For details about the various food hubs in the city visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/emergencyfoodnetwork](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/emergencyfoodnetwork) or call the Council on 08085 834333

## Money worries advice

If you have issues with benefit applications, debt management or universal credit **Coventry Citizens Advice** can help.

More details are available at [www.coventrycitizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.coventrycitizensadvice.org.uk). Anyone without internet access can call its advice line on 03444 111 444.

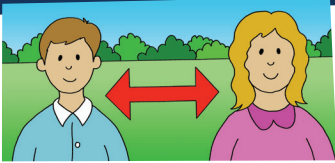
At the same time **Central England Law Centre** recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many new challenges from understanding lockdown rules, to worries about benefits and money and housing.

For details contact **Help@centralenglandlc.org.uk** or call, text or WhatsApp us on 07496 881145 or 07957 711080.

Check out the **Coventry Independent Advice Service** website [www.covadvice.org.uk/advice](http://www.covadvice.org.uk/advice) to access a self-help page for links to online information and details of other services in

Coventry. People can get debt advice at any time by using the online enquiry form - or the 'live chat' feature - also accessible via the website.

You can also call on 07923 126 426 or 07923 126 430 from 9am to 7pm each weekday (except Wednesdays when lines close at 1pm).



We can help to protect ourselves and the people around us from Covid-19 in several ways:

- 1) Follow social distancing rules
- 2) Wash our hands regularly and use tissues when we cough or sneeze
- 3) Know what to do if we have symptoms of Covid-19
- 4) Follow the advice to self-isolate



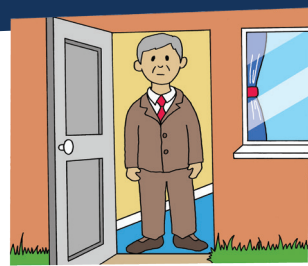
Local councils are working hard together with the NHS and other partners to reduce the number of new cases of Covid-19.

Crucial to this work is Testing and Tracing which is about breaking the transmission chain, so coronavirus has less chance to spread. This will enable us to begin to lead more normal lives.

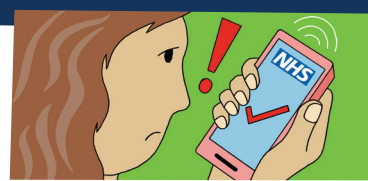
# How contact testing and tracing for COVID-19 works



Over the past few months our communities and neighbourhoods in Coventry have come together to support each other, do the right thing and keep people safe. It's as important now to continue to do this as we learn to live with Covid-19.



The most important action anyone with coronavirus symptoms or confirmed coronavirus can take is to self-isolate at home for 7 days, and for anyone who lives in their house to self-isolate for 14 days.



If you test positive for coronavirus, the NHS Test and Trace service will send you a text, email or phone you within 24 hours, with instructions of how to share details of people you have been in close contact with and places you have visited e.g. your local school, workplace. It is important that you respond promptly.

You can either provide your contacts by logging onto a secure online service or via a trained call handler; simply choose the easiest way for you.



The NHS Test and Trace service will alert your contacts who might be at risk, as quickly as possible, offering them advice on self-isolation and what they should do to help prevent further spread.



The NHS Test and Trace service will not tell your contacts your name or details. It will simply tell them that they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus and what they need to do next.

No financial information such as a credit card or bank details or personal login details will ever be requested.



It is important that you share accurate information of who you have been in contact with to help prevent the spread of the virus. If you have not been obeying social distancing, you or your contacts will not get into trouble.

All information gathered is confidential.



If you have been in close recent contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, you will need to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not you have isolated before. This means you should not leave your house.

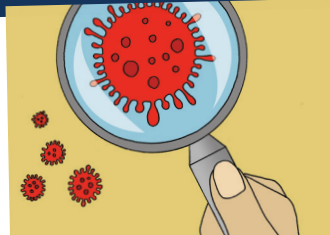


If it is possible for you to amend your usual working routine and work from home, then you should do so.

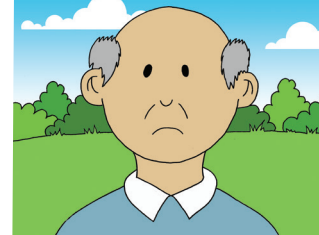
If you cannot work from home while you are self-isolating, you may be entitled to Employment Support Allowance: [www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance)



If you don't have local family, friends or neighbours to help, you may need support with obtaining food and medicines during this time. Contact Coventry City Council on: 08085 834 333 to see what local support is available.



Coventry City Council will work with Partners and Public Health England (PHE) to investigate and control outbreaks and to support Coventry to ensure safe and effective self-isolation.



If we don't all play our part in supporting the Test and Trace Service, we risk another outbreak of coronavirus. This could mean more restricted lockdowns, more time away from our loved ones and sadly more deaths.



If you need further support or guidance, call Coventry City Council on 08085 834 333 or visit: [www.coventry.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Local councils are working hard together, and with the NHS and other partners, to reduce the number of new cases. Crucial to this work is Testing and Tracing.**

Coventry City Council has joined Warwickshire County Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority as one of 11 'Beacons' in the national £300 million Test and Trace Programme.

The Beacons will help to swiftly target testing and contact tracing.

If you test positive for coronavirus, the NHS Test and

Trace service will send you a text, email or phone you within 24 hours, with instructions of how to share details of people you have been in close contact with and places you have visited.

It is important that you respond promptly.

Your contacts will be given advice on what to do. They will not be told your name, and no financial information or personal login details will ever be requested.

**All information gathered is confidential.**

Remember, help and advice is readily available, just call

**08085 834 333** or visit

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

## Help stop the spread of COVID-19

We can help to protect ourselves and the people around us from COVID-19 in several ways:

- 1 Follow social distancing rules
- 2 Wash your hands regularly and use tissues when you cough or sneeze
- 3 Know what to do if you have symptoms
- 4 Follow the advice to self-isolate
- 5 Wear a face mask or covering when in a confined indoor space, when shopping and on public transport, unless you are exempt through health or work reasons

## Get a free NHS test today to check if you have coronavirus

**You can have a test (swab test) to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) now.**

**You can choose to take the test:**

- at a test site near you today and get your result tomorrow
- with a home test kit
- You need to get the test done in the first 5 days of having symptoms.
- Apply online on **GOV.UK**.  
Or call **119** if you have problems using the internet.

If you are getting a test because you have symptoms, you and anyone you live with must stay at home (self-isolate) until you get your result. Anyone in your support bubble must also self-isolate until you get your result.

**Remember, all tests are FREE.**

*If anyone asks you for bank details or for private information, then it is a scam. Please report them.*

## Managing risk for shielded patients

**Shielding is a set of advice and support for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) people to help protect *themselves* from the risk of exposure to COVID-19.**

**Shielding has been paused from 1 August 2020 meaning people previously advised to shield could go to work or to the shops, as long as they are able to maintain social distancing.**

The NHS will continue to maintain the Shielded Patient List in case it is appropriate to reintroduce shielding in the event of a significant peak in the incidence of the virus

If you are vulnerable or at risk and need help with shopping, or other essential supplies, please call the

**NHS Volunteer Responders 0808 196 3646** (8am to 8pm).

If you need any other help related to COVID-19 call the **Council on 08085 834 333**.

## New hospital safety measures

**University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust has introduced a number of measures to keep patients and staff safe.**

Clinical teams at the hospitals have reviewed each and every procedure, admission and appointment to see who should come to hospital or maybe who can be seen in a different way. New signage and hand sanitisers have also been introduced.

- For some outpatient appointments, telephone or video consultations are being offered so patients don't need to come into hospital in person. Visiting restrictions remain but are being reviewed regularly. Check **[www.uhcw.nhs.uk](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk)** for the latest advice.
- For patients requiring surgery, COVID-free areas of the hospital are in place. These Green Pathways help to prevent the spread of the virus with patients tested 72 hours ahead of admission.
- If you need to see your GP or a member of their team, it's important that you don't go to the surgery in person. The first thing to do is either visit their website or telephone them for advice on what to do. That may be a telephone appointment or a video call. If you need medication, your prescription will be issued electronically to a pharmacy of your choice.

**It is still important to attend appointments for childhood vaccinations, cervical screening and any another appointments made at the request of your GP.**

And remember, if you need help urgently you can call **111** or visit **[111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk)** and dial **999** in an emergency.

## Are you worried about a child's safety?

We all have a responsibility to make sure children and young people are safe from harm or abuse.

Don't use lockdown as a reason not to report your concerns.

There are many warning signs of physical and emotional abuse, as well as sexual abuse and neglect. To see some of these, visit the Council website at [www.coventry.gov.uk/safeguarding](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/safeguarding). If you wish to report a matter to the police, call 101 and state your concerns. If you wish to report an emergency matter always dial 999. To speak to a social worker outside of office hours, call 024 7683 2222.

If there is no immediate danger or you need advice or information, you should call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 024 7678 8555.

The MASH brings key professionals together for better quality information sharing, analysis and decision-making, including health, social care, the police, education, and probation.

You can also discuss any concerns you may have by calling Childline on 0800 1111 or the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

## Turn your change into action

People who want to donate money to rough sleepers can do through a scheme called Change into Action.

The donations scheme acts as a secure way for people and businesses to donate and support organisations that help rough sleepers to not only find accommodation and housing, but also employment, skills, and other health support.

To make a donation visit [changeintoaction.org.uk/coventry](http://changeintoaction.org.uk/coventry)

Anyone concerned about someone sleeping rough in Coventry, can send an alert via, [streetlink.org.uk](http://streetlink.org.uk) or call 0300 500 0914.

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

*"Every penny of donations made through Change into Action helps people to access housing support they need."*

## Adult Social Care helps combat COVID-19

Councillors and health partners have heard about the significant contribution made by Adult Social Care to support vulnerable adults during COVID-19.

The Council's Health and Wellbeing Board has heard of several key activities that have allowed vulnerable people to continue to access vital support despite the lockdown.

### They include:

- Developing remote working and use of technology to enable safeguarding and avoid delays in accessing support
- Leading the Council's support of Operation Shield. In partnership with CVLife more than 14,000 people have been contacted and offered support. The Council's Customer Contact Centre also established a vulnerable persons' helpline and by the end of June over 3,000 people had been contacted.
- Supporting the care market, including providing Personal Protective Equipment and infection prevention training. As well as supporting care homes, Council staff have continued to support more than 2,400 people to remain at home
- Hospital discharge - At the start of the pandemic Adult Social Care worked with health colleagues to free up significant numbers

of hospital beds. The aim for 95% of patients to go home was achieved and sustained.

Cllr Mal Mutton, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, said:

*"Throughout this pandemic we have quite rightly shown our gratitude for the NHS and its staff. But there are so many older and vulnerable people outside of NHS venues who need vital daily support and I'm delighted Adult Social Care has been able to keep providing the help they need."*

Cllr Mutton has also written to care providers in the city to recognise their vital contribution to the effort, saying:

*"I am immensely proud the social care sector in Coventry has not only risen to the challenge but in many cases has truly gone above and beyond. The dedication, compassion, and professionalism has been truly humbling."*

## Better health checklist – Help us to help you

With winter coming we need to do all we can to reduce the incidence and impact of COVID-19, and flu on our lives, our wellbeing and on our health and care services.

If any of the following apply to you, you may be at risk: over 55; smoker; pre-existing health condition (diabetes, COPD, asthma, heart conditions); overweight; or shielding.

Healthy Lifestyles Coventry is here to support you with a FREE coaching service to help you get to where you want to be. Visit [www.hlscoventry.org](http://www.hlscoventry.org) or call freephone: 0800 122 3780. CV Life's lifestyle offer is also available, you can contact membership enquiries on 024 7625 2500.

For more ideas, help and information there are also resources that you can download at: [www.nhs.uk/better-health](http://www.nhs.uk/better-health)



## Looking after your Mental Wellbeing

- If you need urgent help contact the local NHS Mental Health Crisis Service on 0300 200 0011.
- For Children and Young People - Rise Crisis & Home Treatment Team on 024 7664 1799.
- The Mental Health Matters helpline also offers emotional support, call 0800 616 171.

### Connect:

Maintaining healthy relationships and staying in touch with friends and family while you are at home – by phone, messaging, video calls or online.

### Keep Learning:

Create a new daily routine that prioritises looking after yourself. This could include reading more, watching movies, exercising, or trying new relaxation techniques.



Immunisation helps to protect your family from disease.

Vaccination appointments count as an important medical reason to leave your home.

## Protect yourself, your family and the NHS – remember flu and MMR jobs

It is more important than ever to protect yourself and your family from infectious disease – and reduce the impact on the NHS and social care.

More people than ever can have a free flu vaccination this year including, including those aged over 65, young children and those who were asked to shield during lockdown.

People in the affected groups will shortly be offered a free flu vaccination, or you can go to selected pharmacies – visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/flu](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/flu)

And remember the MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect your child from three serious illnesses - Mumps Measles and Rubella (German Measles).

Getting vaccinated is important, as these illnesses can lead to complications such as meningitis, hearing loss and problems during pregnancy and in rare cases, death. The more children who get vaccinated, the lower the risk of a measles outbreak.

If you have any questions about vaccinations, ask your GP, call **ChatHealth** on 07507 329 114 or visit [www.facebook.com/coventryhealthvisiting](http://www.facebook.com/coventryhealthvisiting)



## Sign up for Go CV

**With many attractions now back open, many of us are looking out to safely enjoy going out, but also save money.**

The Go CV card gives Coventry residents FREE entry to the Transport Museum and discounts at The Wave and other places like Coventry Music Museum, exercise classes, tennis and offers for special events.

There are even greater discounts for anyone who receives qualifying benefits.

It's now even easier to collect a Go CV card as Family Hubs also offer a Go CV sign-up centre service. Remember, you need a card for each member of your family.

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

*"We're really pleased that Family Hubs are offering the service of a Go CV sign-up centre, which means families can easily pop in and collect a card or get help creating an account."*

To find your local Family Hub visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/familyhubs](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/familyhubs)

To find out more or register for a Go CV card visit [www.go-cv/register](http://www.go-cv/register)

[@gocvcvcard](https://www.facebook.com/gocvcvcard) | [www.go-cv.co.uk](http://www.go-cv.co.uk)

### Be active:

Keeping up your physical health is also important for your mental health

### Give:

Seeing yourself, and your happiness, linked to the wider community can be incredibly

rewarding and creates connections with the people around you.

### Take notice:

Bringing nature into your everyday life can improve your mood and reduce feelings of stress or anger.

## Film helps launch new brand for City of Culture

Coventry City of Culture Trust has unveiled its new brand for the upcoming year-long programme entitled 'Coventry Moves'. The new brand takes inspiration from the city's story and modernist built environment.

Its colour celebrates the 'true blue' of Coventry's weaving past and it will be seen around the city as the countdown continues to the year-long reign as UK City of Culture starting in May next year.

To celebrate 'Coventry Moves', Coventry City of Culture Trust has produced a one minute film that features remastered archive footage to celebrate pivotal moments and iconic locations from the city's history, including Lady Godiva's protest, the land-speed record, the Sky Blues' 1987 FA Cup win, the two cathedrals and the Ring Road. Famous Coventry faces making an appearance include

musician and composer Delia Derbyshire and Pauline Black from Coventry's 2-Tone scene. The film is voiced by Coventry born acclaimed actress, writer, and director Manjinder Virk, who said:

*"I feel genuinely thrilled to voice the film for Coventry City of Culture. As a Coventry kid it's where my passion and love of the arts began."*

See the film and more about City of Culture at [www.coventry2021.co.uk](http://www.coventry2021.co.uk)



## Coventry's Rugby League World Cup fixture revealed

The Rugby League World Cup (RLWC2021) comes to England in 2021, with Coventry's Ricoh Arena hosting the match between current champions Australia and Scotland.

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

*"We in Coventry are extremely excited about hosting the Australia v Scotland game in our city. It will be a great opportunity for the city's profile, highlighting our ability to host high profile sporting events alongside our year as City of Culture."*

*"It will also give the younger generation of our city even more to aspire to. Whether that's being inspired to take up rugby league, or simply incorporating physical activity into their daily lives."*

*"We can't wait to welcome the players, staff and supporters from all over the world and show them what a great place Coventry is."*

Full fixtures and more information can be found at [www.RLWC2021.com](http://www.RLWC2021.com)

# Ready for a new challenge?

Are you ready for a new challenge – a new way of combining working and family life?



**FOSTER FOR COVENTRY**

We are currently recruiting more people to become foster carers with Coventry City Council to work with us to help make a real difference to young lives. Fostering means that you provide a home for a child or children who are, for whatever reason, unable to live with their birth family at this time.

Our foster carers are a key part of our community, providing the care and support that makes a real difference to young people in our city.

If you have a spare room and the time, energy and motivation to provide a safe, stable and positive home for Coventry children we would like to hear from you. You'll need to have some experience with children – either through your own family or professionally.

Fostering requires time and skill and therefore is a paid role, we provide full initial and ongoing training, 24/7 support from our local team and an excellent financial package with different opportunities to progress in your fostering role.

So if you are considering making changes, have a chat with us and see whether fostering could be for you.

Visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/foster](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/foster) or call **024 7683 2828**

## Keep on learning

Coventry Adult Education Service (CAES) is offering flexible ways to study for the academic year 2020/21.

During lockdown, classes have been delivered online, via email and through the post, but from September some will be held in classrooms too.

There are all sorts of classes, from IT courses to help you work at home, to arts, dance, family history and maths and English.

All the latest guidance on social distancing will be followed to keep learners and tutors safe.

For the Autumn Term, you can get **50% OFF** for up to and including Level 2 courses and Community Learning courses. Visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/adulted](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/adulted)

## Don't let your recycling go to waste

Over recent months you've given great support to our bin crews – now we need your help in reducing contamination in blue lidded recycling bins.

If the wrong waste goes in the bin, it can contaminate a whole dustcart and prevent recycling. Recently food waste, clothes and face masks have been found.

Cllr Patricia Hetherington, Cabinet Member for City Services, said, *"Please help us to recycle more by carefully sorting waste. If you are in any doubt, leave it out."*

For more information visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/recycling)

## Libraries restart

Lots of work has been taking place during lockdown to make sure libraries can open their doors again in the safest possible way, and a plan is in place to gradually phase the service back.

Foleshill, Stoke and Tile Hill libraries are now open for 'click and collect' appointments. You can order a book bundle on **024 7683 2314** or on the Council's website [www.coventry.gov.uk/coronaviruslibraries](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/coronaviruslibraries)

In a few weeks' time libraries will offer some appointments for you to choose books from quick choice trolleys. Computers will also be available for people to book in advance.

Cllr Kevin Maton, Cabinet Member responsible for libraries, said:

*"I'm really pleased we're getting closer and closer to the time when we get back to browsing for a best seller. It's important though that we make sure we're doing all we can to make sure visitors and staff are safe."*

Library items currently on-loan will continue to be renewed and there will be no fines or fees.

While you wait for libraries to open, why not try the free e-offer of books, magazines and comics at [www.coventry.gov.uk/coronaviruslibraries](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/coronaviruslibraries)

## STARTING SCHOOL?

Due to start primary or secondary school in September 2021?

### Take action now

You can find out all you need to know about school admissions and apply online from 1 September 2020 at [www.coventry.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/admissions) or call **024 7697 5445**.

Apply on time to give your child the best chance of getting one of your preferred schools.

### Closing dates:

Secondary **31 October 2020**  
Primary **15 January 2021**.

