

citivision

INSIDE

● **Here to help:
New job shop
open for business**

● **Welfare focus:
Don't get caught out**

● **4-page health
supplement**

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

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GAS AND ELECTRICITY BILLS ”

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“ COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL
CAN HELP YOU SAVE MONEY
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SWITCHING YOUR SUPPLIER ”

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Register by Monday 8 April 2013 at:

- www.coventry.gov.uk/switch
- Phone us on 024 7678 6603
- Visit your local library, the job shop or
the Council House and fill in the form.





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

Doing what's right for city and people

There's never been a more challenging time for councils like ours. Faced with savage spending cuts and increasing demands on our services from some of the most vulnerable people in our city, the need to make the right decisions around our budget is absolutely vital.

We've made clear this year's budget is all about doing what's right for the city and its people – that means a freeze in council tax to help residents (because we know every penny counts for many Coventry households) and making sure we protect – as far as we can – the people who need our help the most.

In these difficult times it's more important than ever to keep focusing on the future. We have to continue to take bold decisions about investing in our city and its people, whether that's through our support for initiatives like our hugely successful JobShop, continued investment in road and pavement repairs or working on ways to continue the regeneration of our city centre.

Our budget report this year builds in a long-term Council investment programme of £50million to stimulate the local economy and create jobs, potentially through an agreement with the government for a City Deal for the region.

It's more important than ever for us to invest in regeneration and growth in this way to create more jobs and deliver schemes that will change the face of the city.

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

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

Tel: 024 7683 1081

Fax: 024 7683 1132

e-mail: communications@coventry.gov.uk

Cover story: Job shop staff are looking forward to supporting jobseekers as their new venue opens in Bull Yard.

Full story – Page 6.

A personal message from Charley Gibbons, chair of the Coventry Partnership...

At the heart of the work of the Coventry Partnership is the desire of lots of local organisations and voluntary and community groups to make a difference to the lives of local people.

That's why it is so important to highlight all of the work that's being done in Coventry and how residents can play a part. The new refurbished job shop and the need to provide

advice on national welfare reform are among two of the important subjects featured in *Citivision* as is the editorial on apprentice opportunities and the successes these have brought.

There's lots more to do and I hope that we can all pool our efforts to do what we can to maintain regeneration, growth and support to those most vulnerable.



* Charley Gibbons is chief executive of the Citizens' Advice Bureau in Coventry and has agreed to be the chair of the Coventry Partnership for the coming year.



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*The Belgrade's Olivia Vinall, who is due to star at the National Theatre.

contact us

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

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If you would like to advertise in the next issue of *Citivision*, contact Darren O'Shaughnessy on 024 7683 1075. Coventry City Council is grateful for the support from advertisers in this issue of *Citivision*, but accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of adverts. The next issue of *Citivision* will be delivered in June.

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Going for bust to raise cash

Students (from left) Nicole Smith, Riarna Saye, Mitesh Patel, Phoenix Colquhoun, Alice Greenhall, Shannon Clarke and Antoinette Farquharson show off the papier mache bra in support of City College Coventry's Big Bra event in aid of Oxfam. Student council members Louise Rattigan and Saphyre Osron teamed up with senior youth worker Lynn Ritchie to launch the event, which took place from February 4-15. The event aims to collect unwanted bras and send them to Senegal where they are sorted and sold at Oxfam's social enterprise, Frip Ethique.



New rules on payment for empty properties

There are changes to the amount of Council Tax to be charged for empty properties from April. These follow a change in the law which means that the amount of Council Tax to be paid can be varied.

Previously, exemption periods have been granted so that Council Tax is not payable for a period of time before a full charge is raised. The changes mean that when a property becomes empty a full Council Tax charge will be payable by the owner after two weeks or earlier if the property becomes occupied. Also, a full Council Tax charge will be payable immediately for empty properties undergoing repairs.

Other new empty property rules include a surcharge of 50 per cent which will be added to the bill where a property has been empty for two years or more. This will mean that Council Tax will be charged at a rate of 150 per cent. A further change is that the 10 per cent discount currently awarded to the owners of empty furnished properties will no longer apply.

Deputy council leader George Duggins said: "The rule changes on empty properties are going to be the responsibility of local council's to administer and manage and it is important that people affected are aware."

Further details are available at the Council Tax office either by telephoning 024 7683 1111 or by emailing counciltax@coventry.gov.uk.

Council tax freeze helps ease the pain of cutbacks

A freeze in council tax is being proposed in Coventry City Council's annual budget setting report.

Councillors are being asked to back the recommendation alongside a package of proposals aimed at delivering nearly £29 million worth of savings across the Council over the coming year.

The proposal for a council tax freeze comes after a series of technical changes in government funding for the Council. Savings include nearly £12million through the Council's abc programme, which is reviewing key council services.

The programme includes savings of £3million through a review of the Council's Community Services directorate. Savings targets in these areas will rise to £8million in 2014/15 and £15million in 2015/16.

A further £2million will be saved through more efficient commissioning and procurement of services from outside organisations and £700,000 will be saved through a review of the Council's neighbourhood services.

Other savings highlighted in the report include £500,000 in public health, £500,000 through reviewing the Council's education service and

£550,000 through increasing income and commercialising services.

The report also proposes capital investment in a number of key initiatives, including £14million to fund the expansion of schools in the city, £6million on roads and pavements, £7million for the Nuckle scheme, which will see a new railway station at the Ricoh Arena and £2million for disabled facilities grants.

'We are doing all we can to protect our most vulnerable residents...'

The report builds in a long term Council investment programme of £50million to stimulate the local economy and create jobs, potentially through an agreement with the Government for a City Deal for the region.

Council Deputy Leader George Duggins said: "We originally thought we might need to propose a modest rise in council tax to help us tackle some of the challenges ahead, but the complexities of government funding means that the city benefits more from a freeze in council tax.

"But we are still faced with making

some very painful decisions about our services and losing more posts at the Council than we originally anticipated.

"There's no doubt that the spending cuts being inflicted on us are going to have a real impact on local people, although we are doing all we can to protect our most vulnerable residents.

"At the same time, we're looking to the future and ways we can invest to create more jobs, deliver regeneration schemes that will change the face of the city and take bold decisions that will help bring growth and prosperity.

"This is the only way that the Council, the city and the country can move forward out of the economic and financial problems we face.

"This budget report has been one of the most difficult we've ever had to produce, and I'm proud that we've faced our real financial challenges head on."

Councillors were poised to debate the proposals at a meeting of full council on February 26, as *Citivision* went to press.

■ Benefits update

– See centre pages

■ Empty homes ruling

– See story right

Library marks 60th chapter in its history

Canley Library celebrated its 60th birthday with a series of events from children's rhyme and story time, to circus skills and colouring. The venue was opened on February 10, 1953. The library was officially opened by Lord Mayor Alderman B H Gardner. Cllr David Kershaw, Cabinet Member for Libraries and Adult Education, said: "It's fantastic to see such an integral part of the Canley community celebrate a milestone in its long and rich history. The library has played an important role for so many people over the years and acts as a community hub for residents." For more information about Canley Library, including opening times, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/libraries.



£130k makeover is a thrilling page-turner for book lovers

Coventry's Central Library is closing for three weeks to allow a £130,000 makeover.

The building on Smithford Way will be shut from Monday, February 25 until Monday, March 18.

A temporary closure was the only way to allow the improvement work to be carried out quickly and safely.

Almost 1,500 people visit the library every day and a mobile

'A temporary closure was the only way to allow the improvement work to be carried out quickly and safely...'

library offering a wide selection of books will be open every day on Ironmonger Row. It will be open 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm on Saturday and noon to 3.30pm on Sunday, March 3 and 9.

Loan periods will be extended to cover the closure, but items can still be handed in to a return box at the main entrance or to any other city library. The Central Library renewals (024 7683 1999) and enquiries (024 7683 2314) phone lines will still be open. Online services including renewals will also be available. Improvement work to be carried out includes:

- All areas apart from the main entrance to be re-carpeted and re-painted;
- The children's library to be enhanced, including a new carpet;
- Creating a comprehensive health-books-on-prescription area.

The Changing Places Toilet will also close for the three-weeks.

Twitter proves its worth in blizzard

The power of social media to keep people right up to date on breaking news was given a chilling demonstration with the recent snow.

The Council used its twitter and facebook accounts to tell people the second we knew whether their school was open or not.

The flurry of activity saw both the number of twitter followers and facebook likes rise by around 4000, many of them young people.

The Council is using social media and its website more and more as a means of getting information out quickly and efficiently.

You can follow us on twitter at twitter.com/coventrycc and on facebook at www.facebook.com/coventrycc

Why not do your bit for Diwali?

Cllr Ram Lakha is urging more people to get involved in promoting this year's Diwali Hindu Festival in October. "We are a city with great community relations and in the same way we all recognise the values of Christmas, I would love more people to feel a part of Diwali." If you have any ideas for promoting the festival this year, email communications@coventry.gov.uk

Hard work pays off for A Level students as results show a dramatic rise

Secondary schools have reported a dramatic increase in the numbers of city students achieving three or more A Level passes.

Last year the number of pupils achieving the grades rose nearly 10 per cent to 81.4 per cent. The point score achieved by A

Level students increased to an average of 673 points – which is the grade equivalent of a B and two Cs.

It was also good news at GCSE level, with a four per cent increase in the number of students gaining five or more qualifications at grades A* to C including English and

maths. Cllr David Kershaw, Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "I am delighted with the progress that many young people in Coventry are making. The results are evidence of the hard work of the students and the support that they have been given."

Advice comes free for budding business people

Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce is offering support and advice free of charge for business start-ups.

The initiative includes a series of workshops at the Willenhall Education, Employment and Training Centre, Robin Hood Road Willenhall.

The courses cover two sessions. Session 1 – Preparing for Business, is an exploratory course covering personal skills, financial commitments, legal issues and business structures. It also includes top tips and ideas on marketing and promotions.

Session 2: Ready for Business covers the essential financial elements involved in setting up in business, such as creating a personal survival budget, sales forecast, expenses and cash-flow forecasting.

Course dates are on Wednesdays, March 6 (session 1) and 13 (session 2) and March 20 (session 1) and 27 (session 2). For details, contact 024 7651 1228 or e-mail enquiries@weetc.org.uk

For more information, or to book a workshop place, contact the Enterprise Start Team at Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce on 024 7665 4321.

Enhanced city-centre service helps the unemployed back into work

A city centre job shop has moved to larger premises at 1 Bull Yard, offering a far greater range of job opportunities and career support than the previous venue.

The shop is a partnership between the Council, the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership (CSWP) and Jobcentre.

Since it first opened in Hertford Street last year more than 8,000 visitors and 1,800 shop 'members' have regularly visited the unit using the shop's Work Club environment to apply for jobs. Nearly 500 of these have been supported into work between April and August last year.

The new premises are a 'national first' in terms of the range of agencies all located in one place providing a 'complete service' for every person who is unemployed, or employed and wants to improve their job.

Cllr Lynnette Kelly, Cabinet Member for City Development, said: "The job shop at Hertford Street was a huge success, transforming lives and providing a service to Coventry residents, many of whom wouldn't have access to any employment support otherwise."

"However, it was a victim



■ Cllr Lynnette Kelly officially opens the new job shop, along with Steve Stewart, chief executive of Coventry and Warwickshire Connexions.

Larger jobshop has much more to offer



of its own success and relocation to larger premises soon proved necessary. We have now created a new, enhanced service so that more people can get jobs, address skills shortages, create a Youth Zone and tackle youth unemployment in the city."

Cllr Kelly added: "This has all been achieved without increasing the cost to the Council by engaging a number of significant partners."



■ Esme and Tara with Cllr George Duggins (centre) and Benefits Office colleagues.

Esme and Tara make their mark

Esme Bruce and Tara McLean have been appointed as Benefits Officers after less than a year on the Council's apprenticeship scheme.

Nathan Jessup, Benefits Training Officer with the City Council, said: "Esme and Tara brought enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the Benefits Service, which played a massive part in earning their positions as full time Benefits Officers."

The pair are both undertaking an NVQ Level 2 in Customer Service.

Esme said: "The apprenticeship has given us a chance to gain new skills and further our career

prospects."

Tara added: "We're both excited to start our official roles as Benefits Officers."

Cllr George Duggins, Deputy Leader of the Council, welcomed the news: "The apprenticeship scheme is an effective way of getting more of Coventry's young, emerging talent into jobs."

The Coventry Apprenticeship Strategy sets out a target of creating 120 apprenticeships in 2011 to 2014. There is also a commitment to convert 60 entry-level posts into apprenticeships over the three year period.

Ricoh to host Davis Cup clash

The Davis Cup by BNP Paribas tie between the Aegon GB Davis Cup team and Russia will take place at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

The Europe/Africa Zone Group I second round tie will take place from Friday-Sunday, April 5-7.

Leon Smith, captain of the Aegon GB Davis Cup Team, said: "We are very excited to be taking Davis Cup to Coventry and taking advantage of strong home support."

Tickets for the tie are on sale now via www.theticketfactory.com/default/online or on 0844 338 8838. For group bookings please call 0800 358 0058 and for accessible bookings, call 0844 581 0700. Full price tickets start at £17.

For more information, visit www.lta.org.uk/DavisCup

To find a playing partner, a local court or coach, register at www.allplaytennis.com



■ GB tennis stars (from left) Jamie Baker, captain Leon Smith and Colin Fleming fly the flag for the Davis Cup.

Handball takes off

Coventry's newest major sports club is thriving after securing crucial financial support less than six months after it was formed.

Coventry Handball Club was formed by citizens inspired by watching the sport at the London Olympics.

The club now has more than 50 members and will be entering both male and female teams into competitive leagues this season.

County sports partnership Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sport (CSW Sport) has provided bursary funding to assist the teams with the costs.

It is hoped the club, which is based at the Coventry Sports Trust-managed Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre in Fairfax Street, will also have established a junior section to run alongside its senior teams before the end of the year.

For details, contact chairman Paul Cross at coventryhandball@gmail.com. For more information on CSW Sport and its work in the region, visit www.cswsport.org.uk.

TICKETS FROM £17 AND KIDS GO FREE*

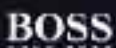
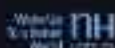


FROM BRITAIN WITH LOVE

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To book call **0844 338 8838** or visit www.theticketfactory.com/daviscup



*One child (aged 14 and under) can go free when an adult ticket is purchased. Only valid on individual day tickets. Players used for illustrative purposes only.

On your marks as city prepares to greet 4,000 athletes

Coventry will be welcoming thousands of visitors as it plays host to another huge sporting event, the UK Corporate Games.

The games – now in their 25th year – are a massive celebration of amateur sport, with representatives from some of the biggest names in business, including Vodafone, IBM and the Lloyds Banking Group.

Over 4,000 representatives are



expected to participate, including a team from Coventry City Council. The UK Corporate Games have been held in various cities across the UK, including London and Preston. They are part of the wider Corporate Games that have

taken place in cities around the world, such as San Francisco, Abu Dhabi and Melbourne.

Coventry City Council's chief executive Martin Reeves, said: "London 2012 showed exactly what Coventry can do and what a great host city we can be for sports, and for sports fans from around the world. We are looking forward to welcoming people from across the nation and



showcasing the best our city has to offer."

To enter a team call 01733 380888 or e-mail uk@corporate-games.com

Some of the competitors who took part in the 2012 games.

Green light for junction upgrade

Improvement work has begun on one of Coventry's main city-centre junctions to make it safer, more efficient and more attractive.

The junction of Little Park Street and New Union Street will be transformed, with roads narrowed, the traffic lights removed and two new zebra crossings installed.

The work is part of the £2.8 million being invested in road and environmental improvements in the city centre over the next 12 months.

Cllr Lindsley Harvard, Cabinet Member for City Services, said: "This is a very exciting piece of work, designed to make the area more pedestrian friendly and pleasing to the eye, whilst at the same time improving traffic flow."

The work began at the end of January and will take about 13 weeks to complete, so there will be some disruption, but there are other routes by which drivers can access the city centre to avoid delays.

Speed limits reduced at hotspot: The Council has reduced the existing 40mph speed limit to 30mph on part of the A4600 Hinckley Road/Leicester Road following accidents on



Cllrs Lindsley Harvard and John McNicholas cut the ribbon to open the latest phase of city-centre junction improvements.

the roundabout at the junction of Hinckley Road and Brade Drive.

The 30mph section starts at a point approx 600 metres north-east of the junction with Ansty Road/Woodway Lane and continues to a point approx 800 metres north-east of that

junction.

Cllr Kevin Maton, Planning chair and a Henley ward councillor, said: "This is excellent news for both motorists and residents! The reduced speed limit should improve road safety in the immediate area."



Ambassadors help shape role of volunteers

Dozens of Coventry Ambassadors who featured in London 2012 met up recently at two events to give their feedback on how they see the future of the volunteers shaping up.

Since London 2012 Ambassadors have featured at the Coventry

Half Marathon and the Christmas lights switch on and recently received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award 2012.

Coventry Ambassador co-ordinator David Boughy of Coventry University, said: "We have a few options to consider and we are keen to hear

from the Ambassadors themselves to discuss what they would like their role to be in future events."

The programme was co-ordinated by Coventry City Council and Coventry University, alongside support from Voluntary Action Coventry and CSW Sport.

Shadow Deputy Prime Minister hears of city's sporting potential

Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP, Shadow Deputy Prime Minister and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media, Sport and the Olympics, took a tour of the Xcel Leisure Centre in Canley recently.

Coventry City Council met with its sporting partners to explain their headline sporting aspirations for the next 10 years at a meeting with Harriet Harman as a special guest.

A list of key sporting objectives are being drawn up which will then be consulted on by a range of sports organisations and local people.

'This is the right time to build on this success for all of our communities and to ensure that there are no barriers to sporting achievement...'

Coventry Olympian Dave Moorcroft is keen to see the city build on its potential for sports participation and achievement.

He said: "London 2012 was a magical moment for Coventry.

"This is the right time to build on this success for all of our communities and to ensure that there are no barriers to sporting achievement."

Cllr Phil Townshend, Cabinet Member for Sport, Community Safety and Equalities said: "I was delighted to welcome Harriet Harman to Coventry and it's an ideal opportunity for her to get a sense of where the city hopes to take sport in the future."

Godiva vote's a stroll in the Park

The Godiva Festival (**pictured right**) is staying in the War Memorial Park – after thousands of people had their say in a public vote on the best location for the event.

More than 21,132 votes were made via the Council's website, text message, phone or by using voting slips in Coventry libraries with 62 per cent voting to keep the event in the War Memorial Park, rather than move to a city centre location.

Coventry councillors launched a public consultation last December after last year's event had to be cancelled due

to terrible weather conditions.

Council leader John Mutton said: "I'm absolutely delighted that the majority of Coventry people agree with me that the best place for our wonderful festival is the War Memorial Park, and I'd like to thank every single person who took the time to vote"

"It's clear that many people liked the idea of doing more in the city centre and we've already come up with some ideas, including holding the Godiva Carnival across the city centre on a different weekend to the festival."



'There are no barriers to sporting achievement'

■ Shadow Deputy Prime Minister Harriet Harman (right) with the Council's chief executive Martin Reeves, Cllr Phil Townshend (centre) and staff and gym club members at the Xcel Centre.

Did you know...?

■ **Over 23 per cent of Coventry's adult population are members of a sports club – slightly above the average rates for both England and the West Midlands.**

■ **There are 54 Clubmark**

accredited sports clubs in Coventry covering 11 different sports.

■ **Investment in public leisure facilities over the last eight years has totalled over £26m.**

■ **Coventry was a co-host city**

for the London 2012 Games, hosting 12 Olympic football matches and 16 nations.

■ **Fifty-three per cent of the city's population do not take part in any sport or physical activity lasting for 30 minutes or longer.**



Walk challenge

Coventry's annual charity Walkathon will take place on Sunday, May 12, at the Coventry War Memorial Park for a wide range of charities.

During the past 17 years the annual Walkathon has raised a staggering £195,224.93 that has been donated to charities, schools, scouts, brownies, sports clubs and many other good causes. The walk, organised by the Coventry Leofric Lions Club, lasts from 11am to 4pm and is supported by the Council, Coventry Building Society, Touch FM, Loveitts Estates and Medevent UK. Entry forms can be downloaded at www.leofriclions.org.uk. Details can also be found on the Coventry Leofric Lions' facebook page. Alternatively, contact Reg Brown on 07766 667349 or by email at reggie-brown@hotmail.co.uk

Waste cuts the bills for civic heating

Coventry Cathedral, the Herbert and the Council House will soon benefit from heat generated by the Waste to Energy Plant as a groundbreaking 'heatline' scheme gets underway.

New waste energy piping is currently being laid in the city centre, designed to save thousands of pounds in heating public buildings.

The energy comes from specialist contractor Cofely District Energy, at a heavily reduced rate. As the scheme is extended, businesses in the city, tenants of social landlords and other groups will also be able to benefit. Cofely is funding the project along with a £2.2 million grant from the Homes and Community Agency for the installation of the infrastructure.

Local people still have time to buy a discounted compost bin, before a price increase comes in at the start of April.

More than a third of household waste is made up of organic material which can be composted. Grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, unwanted plants, fruit and vegetable peelings, tea bags and even the contents of the vacuum bag are all ideal for composting.

The cheapest compost bin currently on offer from the Council costs £16 with a £5.49 delivery charge.

There is also a Buy one Get One Half Price Offer, adding extra value to residents with larger



Don't miss out on this compost bin offer

gardens or those who team up with a friend or neighbour to buy a bin.

Compost bins and accessories can be ordered via www.getcomposting.com or by calling 0844 571 4444.

Rewards point way to recycling

The Council has been successful in securing over £1m to offer incentives for recycling.

Every Coventry householder and student who registers for the scheme will receive reward points for every extra tonne of waste Coventry recycles.

The idea is similar to a supermarket reward scheme. It means that the more Coventry recycles, the more money registered householders and students will get off their shopping or leisure activities. The project includes the employment of three Recycling Champions for five years to promote recycling by householders and the provision of a recyclebank-style incentive scheme to every household and university hall of residence in Coventry.

Cllr Lindsay Harward,

Cabinet Member for City Services, said: "This scheme is unique because the rewards will be based upon the collective recycling/composting performance of the city as a whole. This simplifies the administration of the scheme and avoids the need for extra costs to fit barcodes or identity chips on bins."

The source of the cash is the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Weekly Collection Support Scheme. The funding is spread over three years

Cllr Harward continued: "In 2011/12 Coventry households recycled over 45,000 tonnes of waste or around 39 per cent. This is enough waste to fill 4,500 bin lorries. This is a great effort, but we could do better."

Henley's
RESTAURANT

THEMED EVENINGS 2013

Henley's Restaurant offers a unique dining experience for customers

Serving contemporary cuisine, prepared, cooked, presented and served by our award winning students to the highest standards, at a price which is affordable to all.

The restaurant is open for lunch during the week, and is staffed by students working towards qualifications in Hospitality and Catering.

Your custom is most welcome as it enables our students to experience a realistic working environment. Why not try one of our themed evenings and taste food from around the world.



27th March - Chinese theme



24th April - Great British menu



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Only £12.95 per head

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or email: henleysrestaurant@henley-cov.ac.uk

£5 deposit per person is required when booking.

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twitter.com/henleycollege
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Coffee chain backs young retail trainees

Community coffee chain Esquires Coffee Houses has signed up for City College Coventry's first retail apprentice.

City College already offers the BTEC Level 1 certificate in retail knowledge.

Now, by introducing the retail apprenticeship, the college is offering young people a

progression to the Level 2 certificate in retail knowledge. Shannon O'Callaghan said: "The apprenticeship means I can earn while developing new skills that I can put into action in the workplace."

"The academic elements are delivered in the workplace, which suites me better than

the classroom."

Steven Prime, owner and manager of the Esquires Coffee Houses franchise in the Transport Museum, said: "We need capable and motivated employees. The retail apprenticeship is the ideal route and City College is proving the perfect partner."



■ Shannon O'Callaghan and Steve Prime, with Susan Barnes and Cath Bacon looking on.

Off to work we go!



■ Young jobseekers flushed with success after their intensive job training session.

Eight unemployed young people and five unemployed adults have been given access to jobs, thanks to taking part in a Coventry boot camp.

This is the third time that local organisations have clubbed together to help young NEETs (not in education, employment or training) to become job-ready and give them a better future.

Housing associations Midland Heart, Orbit Heart of England and Whitefriars Housing worked with West Midlands Fire Service, CSWP, Coventry City Council Entry to Employment Team, Open Door Employment Programme, the Youth Offending Service, West Midlands Police and Coventry City Youth Services to run the two-week session.

All those who attended the boot camp were NEETs aged from 16 to 19 years old. Five scooped paid job

opportunities and three are going for final interviews for paid positions, after successfully completing the programme.

A team of five mentors – also unemployed – who range in age from 19-49, were recruited to help the boot campers.

Seventeen-year-old Tyson Waite,

'I'm so pleased that I've now got a proper job, I can't wait to start. I don't know what would have happened for me if I hadn't gone to boot camp...'

from Hillfields, was one of the NEETs who took part in the course. He secured a full-time job working as a multi-skilled operative for MS Contractors, which conducts repairs and maintenance for Midland Heart, one of the housing associations that organises boot camp.

He said: "Before doing boot camp I was working two days a week in a

temporary position. When I found out about boot camp, I jumped at the chance.

"Boot camp has been brilliant. I'm so pleased that I've now got a proper job, I can't wait to start. I don't know what would have happened for me if I hadn't gone to boot camp."

Through the boot camp the participants took part in various activities, including physical exercises, CV writing and interview skills, team building and healthy cooking. They also helped at Coventry Food Bank.

Boot camp organiser Danny Wright said: "Boot camp is going from strength to strength. We've now helped 43 youngsters into the education and jobs market, and thanks to this boot camp we've also given extra assistance to five adults."

Anyone interested in taking part in the next Coventry boot camp later this year should contact Danny Wright on 024 7649 6725.

School focus on young engineers

A school like no other is coming to Coventry.

The WMG Academy for Young Engineers, which is due to open in September 2014, will offer a radically different approach to learning and teaching by putting real business at the centre of the curriculum.

Students will learn by doing things, making things, designing things and creating things – just like businesses do every day – and they will be better prepared for the challenges which follow, whether that is in companies, in further education or at university.

The WMG Academy for Young Engineers will eventually welcome 640 students aged 14 to 19 to its purpose built facility located adjacent to Westwood Academy.

The WMG Academy for Young Engineers is supported by the University of Warwick, the EEF, The Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and the West Midlands Manufacturing Consortium, and over 40 of the region's employers are engaged in the development of the Academy and its curriculum, including Jaguar Land Rover, National Grid and IBM.

For further information, visit www.abetterwayoflearning.co.uk

It's all change on the welfare and benefits front, and here Citivision attempts to legislate and to brief you on the measures being taken by your City Council

New housing benefit rules which come into force in April are being highlighted to residents in Coventry amid fears the scheme, dubbed the bedroom tax, will result in higher levels of rent arrears, and greater homelessness

The new government rules will affect housing benefit, which is paid to less well-off tenants to help with rent. The Council and local advice agencies are warning that people need to be aware of how the new rules will affect them.

CLr David Welsh said: "We are working with partners to spread the word and encouraging people to take steps to mitigate the effects of the welfare reforms. We can't control what the government does, so our priority is to help people to take steps to reduce the impact of these reforms."

What is changing?

From April 2013 those claiming Housing Benefit deemed to have a spare bedroom will receive a reduced payment. Under the government's so-called "size criteria", families will be assessed for the number of bedrooms they actually need.

Who will be affected?

This change affects tenants who rent from housing associations. These changes do not affect private sector tenants. These new rules apply to working age claimants, and pensioners are unaffected. In Coventry an estimated 3,180 households will have their benefit cut.

The 'bedroom' tax

Your questions answered on housing benefit rules

How much will people lose?

If tenants are deemed to have one spare room, the amount of rent eligible for housing benefit will be cut by 14 per cent. If they have two or more spare rooms, the cut will be 25 per cent. It will mean a reduction of housing benefit of around £12 to £27 per week depending on the rent and if one or two rooms are underoccupied.

How many bedrooms are you allowed?

The new rules allow one bedroom for each adult or couple. Children under the age of 16 are expected to share, if they are the same gender. Those under 10 are expected to share whatever their gender.

Can I keep a spare bedroom?

Not without losing benefit. Parents who are separated are not allowed to keep a vacant bedroom for a child who visits.

Are pensioners exempt?

From April 2013, if either half of a couple are of pensionable age, they

will not suffer reductions to housing benefit.

What can I do?

You can stay and pay the increased rent. Look at your income and your expenditure and make sure you can afford to pay. Consider setting up a Direct Debit.

■ **Consider moving to smaller accommodation.** Check out www.homeswapper.co.uk to look for an exchange; or www.coventryhomefinder.com for a transfer.

■ **Consider getting a lodger.** If you have particular circumstances that mean that you cannot pay, the City Council administer Discretionary Housing Payments.

Are you aware of the changes coming into housing benefit from April 1?

These could affect anyone of working age who is under occupying their home. If you have any spare bedrooms you could be under occupying your home, which would affect your housing benefit in April. If you're a Whitefriars housing tenant, you can find out more by visiting www.wmhousing.co.uk and checking the under occupancy calculator. For general information visit www.coventry.gov.uk/housingandcounciltaxbenefit

Lessons in debt avoidance now begin in the classroom

A new schools-based project by Coventry Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) providing advice on budgeting,

avoiding the pitfalls of using loan sharks and support to families is expanding.

With new welfare reforms set to be enforced across the country, Coventry Citizens' Advice Bureau and dozens of Coventry schools are working together to deliver the Children and Young Persons Project (known as ChYPP).

Families are being helped to budget effectively and understand

Budgeting

the importance of debt management.

School staff are also trained to become Children and Young Persons Project (ChYPP) Champions and then provide the financial management sessions. The scheme is adapted to support vulnerable groups including people with learning difficulties, ex-offenders, looked after children and care

leavers.

The programme is being run in 31 primary schools, secondary schools, academies and one community centre. Schools-based staff have access to a resources folder to enable the correct signposting to various services for families.

Charlotte Sutton, a Learning Mentor at Alderbrook Farm Primary School, who was one of the recipients of the awards, said: "The ChYPP programme has given us the training we need to continue to make stronger connections between schools, parents and the Citizens' Advice Bureau so that parents and carers receive access to advice and services."

The scheme has proved to have benefits for those families facing a range of social issues. In one case a pupil's attendance rose from 62 per cent to 98 per cent as a direct result of the programme.

Moves to protect vulnerable families

Coventry City Council is to continue to pay Council Tax benefit in full and protect the city's most vulnerable families after a city-wide consultation.

The Council is being forced to respond to a £2.6million funding shortfall in the cash it gets from Government to fund Council Tax Benefit - part of the coalition government's policy of making savings from cutting funding for benefits.

Council Tax Benefit is a means-tested benefit to help low-income households with council tax costs. Coventry - along with West Midlands Police and Fire Authorities - administers about

Benefits

£30m of benefit to more than 37,000 households. The average award is about £15 per week.

Deputy council leader George Duggins said: "To pass on the Government's cuts would have had a dramatic impact on thousands of vulnerable Coventry residents. We are committed to ensuring we protect these people, and the consultation has reinforced our determination to do that."

Government funding for Council Tax benefit is being cut by 10 per cent from current levels when support for council tax payments is transferred to the City Council's control from April next year.



■ CAB and teaching staff help press home the message.

pts to guide you through the maze of new
ouncil to manage those budget pressures...



Pioneer web guide helps your money go further

Annette Hartopp, 23, gets to grips with the internet and her new-found IT skills.

Coventry residents are pioneering a new, free, course that can help households make savings of around £560 per year, from shopping and paying bills online, while increasing their income potential.

In what is believed to be a national first, Whitefriars Housing and Henley College have united to devise a course written directly for Coventry residents. It educates people how to use the internet, while using course materials that teach them about things like how welfare reforms will affect them, how to access public services and where to find other useful information.

This is the first time that a housing association has worked with a college to put together a course which is tailored for their residents, although the course is available to anyone in Coventry.

The course is timely, because the government's new Universal Credit system will begin to replace existing benefits from October 2013 onwards. Once this happens the main way of accessing this new Universal Credit will be via the internet, so people receiving benefits who are not online will struggle to cope.

Online savings

It also comes on the back of information from Go On UK which outlines that 16m people in the UK aged 15 and over still do not have basic online skills, yet 90 per cent of jobs will require ICT skills by 2015.

The course is free for people claiming benefits or tax credits. Annette Hartopp, 23, from Bell Green, who is currently unemployed, is

'The course has been fantastic. and I've learnt how to use emails and attach documents, so I can apply for jobs and send my CV and covering letter...'

one of the first students on the course. She said: "The course has been fantastic. I would like to have a job in retail, and I've learnt how to use emails and attach documents, so now I can apply for jobs and send my CV and covering letter.

Ray Goy, principal at Henley College, said: "This course, which we have set up with Whitefriars, is an excellent example of how we work with other organisations to create opportunities for local people."

The course, which is for all ages, can be taken part-time at flexible hours to suit students. It is available at six locations across Coventry.

To find out more, or to book a place on the course, call 024 7662 6444.

Foster care

Care payments to rise in recruitment drive

Fees and maintenance payments to foster parents in Coventry are to rise as part of an on-going drive to increase the number of carers.

From April, fees paid to foster carers will rise by two per cent while maintenance payments and all other child care allowances are to rise by five per cent. The lowest band of payments to foster carers will also be scrapped, meaning the minimum fee any person will receive for fostering a child will be £139.37 per week.

The reason for the changes is to make foster caring more attractive to people and to bring the city more in line with the national Fostering Network.

Approving the increases, Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Children Learning and Young People, believes the move makes perfect sense.

He said: "We value our current carers and appreciate the cost pressures that they face too and want to reward them for their hard work and loyalty. These changes will move us towards a position to enhance and encourage more people to join our appeal to become a foster carer."

Anyone wanting more information about becoming a foster carer, or to adopt a child, should contact Coventry City Council on 024 7683 2828.

get online
There's a whole new world online.

NEW COURSE!

What is it?
Our course can help you gain the knowledge and skills to find your way around the internet and a computer with confidence, whatever your age or ability. Plus we can give you advice about affordable computers and affordable ways to get online.

Who is it for?
This course is available to anyone who is looking to improve their skills in using the internet and a computer. There is no charge for the course, but you will need to bring your own laptop.

Where is it?
This course is available at six locations across Coventry.

What's the cost?
The course is FREE! (Materials, books and materials).

How do I take part?
For a copy of the course brochure call 024 7662 6444

Why not learn to be a part of it?

Online Life...

- Manage your money
- Get in touch with your landlord, Local Council, the Police, NICE and more
- Find a job
- Get a laptop

Online Leisure...

- Music
- Family History
- Game playing
- Talk with friends & family
- Follow accounts & celebrities
- and much, much more...

whitefriars HENLEY
STUDENT FIRST

Funds plea from junior firefighters

The newly-formed Foleshill branch of the Young Firefighters' Association is looking for support.

Angie Clementson, welfare officer at the association, said: "We formed just over a year ago, and had just six members, but we've since expanded to our full capacity of 30. We'll be planning some fundraising events and are looking for sponsorship from local people."

The group includes members aged 10-17, many of whom have a special need. The association meets every Tuesday night from 6.30pm until 8.30pm at the Foleshill Road Fire Station. Angie added: "We provide free activities, from first aid and social skills, to basic hose and equipment drills, as well as providing a uniform and organising trips out."

For details, call 07557411262.



■ Vet Elly Pittaway (left) with Cllr Jayne Innes and Cllr Bally Singh in Allesley Park.

Please clean up after your dog

A partnership between the Council and Broad Lane Vets has helped a campaign for owners to clean up after their dogs.

New dog waste bins in Allesley Park and the War Memorial Park now carry a message courtesy of the city vets to encourage owners to remember their responsibilities.

Whoberley ward councillor, Bally Singh, said: "The issue of dog fouling is one that is wide-ranging because of clean-up costs to tax payers and, of

course, the potential health threats associated with dog mess."

Dog faeces can spread disease, increasing the risk of transmission of fatal infections like Parvovirus between dogs. Children are also especially at risk of contracting infectious diseases and even blindness.

The Council's Animal Welfare Section will continue to monitor and enforce the no dog fouling law which makes it an offence not to clear up after a dog if it fouls in a public place.

How to keep up with parks' news

The Council is keen to keep people in the know about what's happening throughout the year in the parks around the city.

There are many ways of doing this, from text messaging to updating the Council's website.

To tell the parks team how you would like to be kept in touch, write to Coventry City Council (Room 27) FREEPOST CV3098, Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5BR, or e-mail parks@coventry.gov.uk. Or you can text on 07950 081216 with the word park, your name and the way you would like to be contacted. Choose one of the reference numbers for the parks below when replying:

- 1 Coombe Country Park.
- 2 War Memorial Park.
- 3 Allesley Park.
- 4 Longford Park.
- 5 Holbrooks Park.
- 6 Caludon Castle Park.
- 7 All parks.

ADOPT FOR COVENTRY

We have children in Coventry waiting for families who can give them a home for life.

If you haven't thought about adoption, could you?

We are looking for people who have:

- the time, space and patience for children
- the energy to give children a really positive experience of life
- commitment to provide a family home for life

We will offer you support and guidance throughout each step of the process.

Contact us now and we'll help you think about what's involved in adopting a Coventry child who needs you.

024 7683 2828



www.coventry.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering

Honouring those who show they care

People are being urged to enter this year's Coventry Community Cohesion Awards on July 4, organised by Coventry Partnership and Coventry Ethnic Minority Action Partnership (CEMAP).

Entrants are asked to outline an activity/project/group/scheme that can practically demonstrate how groups or organisations have contributed towards community cohesion across different communities, groups, faiths, age groups and people from different backgrounds, ethnicity and disabilities. The awards will be judged in the following five categories:

- 1 **Voluntary/Community** - activities run by large voluntary or community organisations (income above £50,000 per annum);
- 2 **Voluntary/Community** - activities run by small voluntary or community groups (income below £50,000 per annum);
- 3 **Public Sector** - activities run by the public sector;
- 4 **Young People** – activities run and led by young people aged 18 and under;
- 5 **Private Sector** – activities where private sector is working with communities.

The deadline for applications is April 19. For more details, call 024 7683 2939.

Have your say at forums

Why not have your say on issues affecting your neighbourhood by attending a local forum? The meetings are held four times a year and are attended by ward councillors, police and street service officers. Below are a few forums to look out for in coming weeks – anyone can attend, and they run between 7-9pm, unless otherwise stated:

March 12: Radford, Radford Primary School, Lawrence Saunders Road, Radford, CV6 1HD; **Sherbourne** tbc; **Wainbody**, Grange Farm Primary School, Dewsbury Avenue, Stivichall, CV3 6NF.

March 13: Foleshill, St Barnabas Church Hall, Cromwell Street, Paradise, CV6 5EZ; **Henley**, Moat House Leisure & Neighbourhood Centre, 1 Winston Ave, Wood End, CV2 1EA.

March 19: Westwood, Xcel Leisure Centre, Mitchell Avenue, Canley CV4 8DY.

March 20: Longford, Bell Green Community Centre, 1 Old Church Road, Bell Green, CV6 7B2;

St Michael's (6pm start), Hope Centre, Sparkbrook Street, Hillfields, CV1 5LB. **March 21: Lower Stoke**, Meredith Road Baptist Church, Meredith Road, Stoke,

CV2 5JH; **Wyken**, Wyken Croft Primary School (Community Hall) Wyken Croft, Wyken, CV2 3AA; **Holbrook**, Craftsman Public House, Beake Avenue, Whitmore Park, CV6 2HQ.

March 26: Binley & Willenhall, WEET Centre, Robin Hood Road, Willenhall, CV3 3AN.

March 28: Whoberley, Allesley Park Community Centre, 199 Winsford Avenue, Allesley Park, CV5 9NG.

April 25: Upper Stoke, Kings Banqueting Suite, Blackberry Lane, Wyken, CV2 3JW.

For more information, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums

Belgrade actress takes centre stage

The Belgrade Theatre's ongoing commitment to nurturing up-and-coming talent continues to pay off as

Olivia Vinall, who recently starred in the theatre's production of *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, is to play Desdemona in a star-studded production of *Othello* at the National Theatre.

Directed by the National Theatre's artistic director Nicholas Hytner and also starring Adrian Lester as *Othello* and Rory Kinnear as *Lago*, the production is one of several shows being staged as part of the theatre's 50th anniversary.

Olivia said if it wasn't for her role in *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, then she might never have got the part.

"It really is a dream come true for me and all thanks to the Belgrade for producing and supporting lesser known, but incredible pieces of writing," she said.

Olivia is following in the footsteps of a number of hugely successful actors who have begun their careers at the Belgrade, including Sir Ian McKellen, who had his first job in a Belgrade production of *A Man for All Seasons* in 1961. He went on to appear in 15 Belgrade productions before moving on to perform in theatres around the country, including the National Theatre and the RSC.



Olivia Vinall in a scene from the Belgrade Theatre's production of *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*.

Cathedral diary dates

Coventry Cathedral is offering a range of new activities and trails to let children get a better understanding of one of the city's best-known landmarks. During the Easter holidays, children can take part in an egg hunt, with a prize for all completed trails. There will also be the chance to decorate your own egg and make your own Easter Bonnet. St Michael's Singers will add to the broad mix of events at the Cathedral. The choir will celebrate 50 years with a full schedule including the emotional *Bach: St John Passion* on Good Friday. In May, they will join Gloucester Choral Society for the first European performance of *Mahler Second Symphony*. Other events to enjoy include the Paris Gospel Choir, Summer Gala concert and distinguished guest Aled Jones, the *Songs of Praise* presenter, who will be appearing at Coventry Cathedral on May 11. Tickets are on sale from the Cathedral Visitor Desk, on 024 7652 1210 or from gigsandtours.com and ticketmaster.co.uk. Further information can be found in the Cathedrals 'What's On' guide, visit www.coventrycathedral.org.uk or you can 'like' the Cathedral's page on Facebook

Artists in firing line

Caught in the Crossfire, a free exhibition exploring how artists grapple with the brutality of war and the desire for peace, is on at the Herbert Museum & Art Gallery. The exhibition takes visitors on a challenging journey from the home front to the frontline and back again, as seen through the eyes of artists, soldiers and people affected by conflict. On show will be historical works by John Piper, Eric Kennington and Muirhead Bone alongside contemporary works by Banksy and others. The exhibition is a Heritage Lottery Fund Collecting Cultures project in partnership with Wolverhampton Art Gallery. New acquisitions are supported by V&A Purchase grant, Art Fund and Henry Moore Foundation. It runs until July.

Faces put to the names

Citivism readers have come forward with the photographs of six heroes of the Great War to add to the Missing Faces display in the Visitor Centre at the War Memorial Park. Historian Trevor Harkin, working with the Friends of the War Memorial Park and the Council, appealed in the last issue for help to commemorate all who died in the 1914-18 conflict with a photograph on a plaque in the park. Go to www.warmemorialpark.co.uk/missingfaces.html to find out more.

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



NHS 111 is a new national telephone service which will be launched in Coventry, spring 2013.

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

NHS 111 provides a new way to ensure people receive the right care, from the right person, in the right time and place.

When you call 111, a trained adviser will ask you questions to find out what's wrong, give you medical advice and direct you to someone who can help you, like an out-of-hours doctor or a community nurse.

If the adviser thinks your condition is more serious, they will direct you to hospital or send an ambulance. If you don't speak English, tell the adviser what language you want to speak and they will get you an interpreter.

You can call 111 free from landlines and mobile phones. 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Call 111 if you need

When you call 111, a trained adviser will ask you questions to find out what's wrong, give you medical advice and direct you to someone who can help you...

medical help fast, but it's not life-threatening – for example, if you:

- **Think you need to go to hospital;**
- **Don't know who to call for medical help;**
- **Don't have a GP to call;**
- **Need medical advice or reassurance about what to do next.**

For health needs that are not urgent, you should call your GP.

NHS 111 replaces the NHS Direct service and will also be the number to call to get access to the local GP out of hours service.

For more information on NHS 111, visit www.nhs.uk/111



■ Nicky Bancroft (left) from Penny Brohn Cancer Care with a service user Su Jenkins from Warwickshire who attended one of the Living Well Courses last year in Coventry.

More support for people living with cancer

The Arden Cancer Network is providing funding for Penny Brohn Cancer Care to deliver three more 'Living Well' courses in 2013.

The Arden Cancer Network made the decision to fund more courses following positive feedback from local people who attended a 'Living Well with the Impact of Cancer course' in Coventry last year. Becky Whiteman, Nurse Director at the Arden Cancer Network said: "We are delighted to be working in collaboration with Penny Brohn Cancer Care to provide £4.5k funding for a further three living well courses across Coventry, Warwickshire & Worcestershire in 2013.."

The living well course provides significant support to those patients living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis, and complements a

series of activities supported by the Cancer Network in support of the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative."

The Living Well course, which has been developed by Penny Brohn Cancer Care, offers a combination of physical, emotional and spiritual support and is designed to work alongside medical treatment.

The course is open to anyone over the age of 18 with a cancer diagnosis and their closest supporter.

The first course this year will take place in Coventry, from Monday 11th March until Wednesday 13th March 2013.

To find out more about the course, please contact Penny Brohn Cancer Care helpline on 0845 123 2310 or visit www.pennybrohncancer.org

People urged to get involved in NHS Change Day on March 13, 2013

Members of the public are being urged to take part in the biggest NHS engagement event to date on Wednesday 13th March 2013.

NHS Change Day is a national event taking place in towns and cities across the UK.

It's not just for those involved in healthcare but anyone can get involved and join in the largest improvement event in the NHS to date.

The NHS is marking the day

across Coventry and Warwickshire by getting members of the public and patients involved in the biggest engagement event the local NHS has ever held.

On the day, people will have a chance to have their say and give feedback to NHS staff about what they feel and think about the changes that are happening to the NHS locally. You can learn and find out more about the new Clinical Commissioning Groups across



Coventry and Warwickshire and what plans they have as they take on their commissioning responsibilities

in April 2013.

NHS staff will be present at local shopping centres and supermarkets across Coventry and Warwickshire.

The aim of the event is to help make it easier for people to get their views across and to give people the chance to members of the public about their views and what the new changes mean to them.

For more information and details about the event, visit www.coventry.nhs.uk

Quality candidates line-up for Trust election

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust is currently preparing to become a Foundation Trust, and as part of this process has held an election to appoint members of the Trust to a new Council of Governors.

Forty seven public and staff members put themselves forward. These members contested 18 seats across four constituencies: Coventry, Warwickshire, the Rest of England and Staff.

Please visit the Trust's website at www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk to see its new Council of Governors.

Monitor, the external body that reviews and authorises all Foundation Trusts in England, is currently inspecting the work of the Trust closely, and once their review is completed, the Trust is aiming to become an authorised Foundation Trust in May 2013.

Martin Gower, Chair of the Trust commented on the number of candidates who have come forward.

He said: "The quality of our candidates indicates we will be working with a group of Governors who share in our vision and values for the Trust. It also indicates that we are heading very much in the right direction as a service provider.

"Our philosophy as a Foundation Trust will be to develop a range of services to meet the needs of the people we serve, invest in the potential of our staff, and work to ensure that everyone in our community has the chance to lead a healthy and fulfilled life."

Members of the public can sign up to become a member of the Trust's Foundation membership scheme. Free to join, it gives members the opportunity to support their local NHS Trust and help develop services for the communities it serves.

To find out more about becoming a member, please visit www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/makeadifference

Minister shines spotlight on community services



■ Health Secretary Dr Daniel Poulter with the Sale family.

Dr Daniel Poulter, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Health, visited the City of Coventry Health Centre, to learn more about community services.

During the visit, the Minister met members of the children's community health teams to hear more about the range of services on offer in the city.

Dr Poulter also took time to hear

from Stephen and Sarah Sale with their daughter Jamie, who are regularly visited at home by staff who are based at the city centre facility, to help them provide care that Jamie needs.

The Minister heard about services where staff in Coventry and Warwickshire with similar roles work extremely closely to share ideas across the whole area.

Jed Francique, General Manager, Children's Services, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust said: "Children in Coventry receive an excellent service from a dedicated team who understand their needs and the range of care available in their area. We are determined to provide the best care possible as close to home as we can for each child who uses our services."

NHS Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group is gearing up to deliver healthcare

NHS Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is gearing up towards April 2013, as it steps forward in taking on its statutory responsibility for planning and commissioning healthcare for the local population of Coventry and Rugby.

The new CCG is a clinically-led organisation headed up by Coventry and Rugby GPs and has developed strong working relationships with local councils, hospitals, community services, community groups, patients and the public to make sure that there are

robust commissioning support arrangements in place. The CCG has a clear vision for the future to improve the quality of local health services, the accessibility and best outcomes for patients and members of the public.

A website is being produced to inform people about the work of the CCG, the key priorities and how patients and the public can feed back their views.

Patients and the public are welcome to come along to a launch event of the CCG's website on Thursday 25th April 2013 from 10am until

1pm at BBC Coventry and Warwickshire radio station, Priory Row, Coventry.

As part of the launch, people will be able to find out what information is available online about health services.

You can also find out about the best NHS sites, how to get online and NHS staff will be there to answer queries about information links.

If you would like to get involved in having a say, or would like to come along to the CCG website launch event, please email esther.peapell@coventrypct.nhs.uk



■ NHS Hero award for the team helping people live with dementia.

Dementia team recognised with national award

The Young Onset Dementia Team at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust has recently been crowned an NHS Hero for the ground-breaking work it does to improve the lives of those blighted by the neurological disease, and those of their families.

The team, based at the Caludon Centre in Coventry, work almost exclusively in the community in close partnership with local health, social and third sector services.

To keep people closer to their homes and families, the team has explored different care options for younger people with dementia, including care at home from either a professional or a supported family member, focused on wellbeing, prevention and early intervention. One inpatient, a 48-year-old from Coventry, was able to return back home with a live-in carer – an option that would have been unachievable previously.

Dr Karim Saad, Regional Clinical Lead for Dementia, said: “Dementia is still very much seen as a disease exclusive to old age, despite the increasing numbers of diagnoses each year in people under 65. To be diagnosed with dementia at a younger age can be devastating, and providing proper care requires highly specialist skills to support the person affected and their family.

“The Young Onset Dementia Team in Coventry is one of just a few in the country that work specifically with people of working age to help them and their carer’s understand how best to live with their condition, plan for the future and avoid social exclusion.”

Success on the menu

Volunteers at an NHS café have landed a top award for their dedication to offering a good quality service.

The Rendezvous Café at the Caludon Centre in Coventry has been awarded the food hygiene honour for its five-star service.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust delivers inpatient and outpatient adult mental health care and learning disability services from the Caludon Centre, a purpose-built facility based at Walsgrave in Coventry.

The Rendezvous Café provides hot and cold refreshments to patients, visitors and staff, all made possible by a team of dedicated volunteers who manage the facility, between 10am and 4pm each day.

A recent inspection by Coventry City Council presented the Rendezvous Café with the highest food hygiene rating of 5 (very good) through the ‘Scores on the Doors’ programme, a national food hygiene scheme that is monitored and awarded by the Food Standard Agency.



■ At your service (from left): Volunteer Shop Supervisor Joan Crass with volunteers Sheila Maltby and Demi Blackstock.

Joan Crass, Volunteer Shop Supervisor at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, said: “Our volunteers provide an invaluable service to patients, visitors and staff by making sure that they have convenient access to hot and cold refreshments as well as a mini-shop.

“Mental health services are often perceived unfavourably and this stigma can sometimes mean that the volunteer service does not attract as much support that other organisations experience.”

Demi Blackstock, aged 19, a college student at City College in Coventry and a volunteer at the Caludon Centre, said: “I’m

volunteering at Caludon Centre as part of my health and social care course at City College.

“My course timetable for next term means that I am able to volunteer each Monday and I’m delighted to be given the opportunity to continue volunteering in such a lovely environment”

Anyone interested in a wide-variety of volunteering opportunities at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust can find out more by calling 024 7696 8165 or 024 7696 9047. Alternatively, contact joan.crass@covworkpt.nhs.uk or Patricia at patricia.sheasby@covworkpt.nhs.uk

Healthy lifestyle advice on agenda for 6,000-strong city ethnic group

NHS Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group is working with the Council's Neighbourhood Action Team in Hillfields and Foleshill to stage a healthy lifestyle event for the city's ethnic Roma community.

The Roma community is the largest ethnic group in Europe and originated in what is today Pakistan.

The local group faces a number of health and social issues, prompting the partnership community event at Broad Street Meeting

Hall, Coventry, on Tuesday, March 5, from 12pm until 3pm.

The aim is to bring together service providers and the Roma community in a bid to breakdown barriers to accessing services.

There will be stop-smoking advice, healthy lifestyle tips, information on oral health, and a whole raft of other services such as education and other voluntary and community services available to them.

Roma communities migrated west along the old Silk Road during the 11th century,

spreading throughout Europe and arriving in south east Europe in the 13th century and eastern Europe and Scandinavia in the 14th and 15th century.

Today, Roma communities can be found all over the world, with an estimated population of 6,000 Roma people living in Coventry.

For more information about the event, contact Faheem.sheikh@coventrypct.nhs.uk, Kath.Taylor@Coventry.gov.uk or Sunairah.Miraj@coventry.gov.uk.

Chief exec running on marathon trail for children



Andy Hardy, Chief Executive of UHCW NHS Trust (University Hospital, Coventry and the Hospital of St Cross in Rugby) is taking part in this year's London marathon to raise £2,000 for the hospital charity that will help them to enhance the Children's Emergency Department.

The money raised will help to make it brighter and more welcoming through decoration, refurbishment and the introduction of play and entertainment.

This will make a difference 30,000 local children and young people, who attend department, every year.



To sponsor Andy go to www.uhcwcharity.org/events or send a cheque payable to UHCW NHS Trust Charity to Andy's Run, UHCW Charity, University Hospital, Clifford Bridge Road, Coventry CV2 2DX.

Hospital refuge for sex assault victims

A new service to help the survivors of sexual assault is nearly ready to open its doors following the appointment of eight crisis workers.

The crisis workers will be based at the Blue Sky Centre (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) located on the site of George Eliot Hospital.

The service will be accessible to anyone in Coventry and Warwickshire who has experienced sexual assault.

The crisis workers will be on hand to support anyone attending the centre through their medical examination and then offer them advice on agencies that can further assist in their recovery.

They recently undertook an intensive induction programme run by the Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC) to help them better understand the needs of survivors of sexual assault.

The new recruits will work on an on-call rota system, meaning that there will be someone available 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year to attend the centre to offer support and advice to survivors of sexual assault.

The construction of the Blue Sky Centre is almost complete and the service is expected to launch in March.

Extra help for victims of drugs/drink misuse

People recovering from drug and alcohol misuse in Coventry and Warwickshire are to receive extra help in finding employment under a pilot scheme announced by Work and Pensions Minister Iain Duncan-Smith.

Swanswell, a Rugby-based national charity has won a three-year contract worth £1.2 million to provide employment support for people recovering from substance misuse, alongside specialist help around housing, money management and benefit advice

Debbie Bannigan, Swanswell's Chief Executive, said: "We're delighted to have the opportunity to build upon our work in Coventry and Warwickshire by delivering the new Independent Living service in the area."

Making the most of lighter nights

Here are some of the things you can enjoy this spring in and around Coventry

Sirens lure the 999 enthusiasts

A variety of historical vehicles from all three of Britain's emergency services will be on show this spring at Coventry Transport Museum.

The 999 exhibition will feature a 1929 Dennis Motor Pump, part of the Fire Services National Museum Trust collection, which was based at the Hales Street fire station opposite where museum now stands. Fitted with a Coventry-built White & Poppe engine, the Dennis saw service in the city during WWII.

The exhibition runs at the Museum from March 22 to June 16. Items on loan also include exhibits from the Ambulance Heritage Society and the Police Vehicle Enthusiasts Club, as well as vehicles from the museum's own collection.

The magic of the Mysteries



A feast of dance, music, drama and digital media drama is on the cards at this year's Coventry Mysteries Week Festival from June 8-15. The theme for 2013 is **Re-Creation**, which will see parts of the city centre transformed with a host of performances and events. For updates on this year's programme, check out www.CoventryMysteries.com or @CovMysteries on Facebook and Twitter.

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

info@inspire2coach.co.uk.

Advance bookings on 024 7615 0688 or e-mail info@inspire2coach.co.uk

25 – Theatre Performance, Upper Precinct. Overcoming Theatre's take on evolution and how communication has developed from the Big Bang to the present day.

29 (until April 6) – Pat Collins Fair, Hearsall common. Check out www.patcollinsfunfairs.co.uk.

31 – Alfa Romeo Club, Millennium Place (11am-4pm).

Every weekend a variety of car clubs will be bringing their treasured cars to the city starting with the Alfa Romeo Club. Go to www.transport-museum.com

MARCH

8 (also 22, April 5 & 19, May 3, 17 & 31 and June 14) – Tot Waddle Club, War Memorial Park Visitor Centre (10.30am-noon, £3 per toddler, accompanied by a responsible adult). Wrap-up well as you will spend part of the morning outside. Suitable for 2-4 year olds. Booking essential on 024 7678 6280.

14 – Curator's Talk: Jonathan Barnbrook, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (6.30pm, free). Barnbrook pioneered the notion of graphic design with a social conscience, and makes strong statements about corporate culture, consumerism, war and international politics. Booking advised. To book events call 024 7629 4774 or ask at Herbert reception.

15 (also April 19 & May 17) – Farmers' Market, Broadgate (9am-3pm). The market is a regular feature in Broadgate every third Friday of the month.

A large range of produce and plants will be available.

16 (until May 12) – Unfolding the Aryan Papers by Jane and Louise Wilson, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (free). This film installation was created following extensive research into the Stanley Kubrick archive belonging to the British Film Institute. The artists found footage of *Aryan Papers*, a holocaust film that was never completed

16 – Coventry parkrun, War Memorial Park (9am). A free 5km run, every Saturday - you against the clock. Register at www.parkrun.org.uk/coventry. E-mail coventryhelpers@parkrun.com for help.

16 – Spring has Sprung, War Memorial Park (11am-1pm, £1.55 per child). Explore the park to find which creatures have woken up in time for spring. Wear warm clothing and sensible shoes. Booking essential on 024 7678 6280.

17 (also April 14 & June 1) – Free Tennis Open Day, War Memorial Park Tennis Club (10am-noon). Free open day, and free coaching with inspire2coach. Suitable for all ages and standards. Advance bookings on 02476 150688, or e-mailing info@inspire2coach.co.uk

17 – Saint Patrick's Celebrations, The Connaught Suite, Britannia Hotel, Fairfax Street (1.30pm). Celebrations brought to you by Coventry Irish Society. Tickets must be purchased in advance from CIS. For tickets or further information, contact Kerrie Day, Coventry Irish Society, 42-44 Hill Street Coventry CV1 4AN, call 024 7625 6629 or e-mail kerrie.day@covirishsoc.org.uk

18 (until 31) – Try Tennis sessions, War Memorial Park Tennis Club. Try out some new tennis coaching sessions for free. Times/days vary, see schedule at www.warmemorialparktennis.co.uk or email

APRIL

3 – Urban Explorers, Allesley Park (1.30-3.30pm). Also at Caludon Castle Park, April 4, and Longford Park, April 5). Free environmental activities. Meet at Allesley Play Area. Suitable for 8-12yrs old, open access, no booking. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

4 (also May 30) – Iris May Falcons, Coombe Country Park (11am-1pm). Get up close and personal with birds of prey. Drop-in session, no need to book.

4 – Fabric Fun, War Memorial Park (1.30-3.30pm, £2.70). Loads of fun decorating fabric bags and other items to take home. Meet in the education room at the Visitors' Centre. Suitable for families, and no need to book.

6-7 – Meet King Frog, Coombe Country Park (10.30am-12.30pm, 1.30-3.30pm, £5.25 including parking). Join King Frog for some water tales, then help him find

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

some of his special friends around the park before crafting your own pond life scenes and animals. Meet at the information centre five minutes before the session. Suitable for children aged 5+; booking essential on 024 7645 3720.

8 (until April 12, plus May 27-31) – Tennis Camp, War Memorial Park Tennis Club (9am-noon daily, £50 for full week). Fast track morning tennis camp to get you started. Meet at Visitor Centre. Suitable for 7-14 year olds.

11 – Dinosaurastic, War Memorial Park (1.30-3.30pm, £1.60). Find out about dinosaurs on the Dinosaur Trail, and make some dinosaur-themed arts and crafts. Meet at the education room at the Visitors' Centre. Suitable for families, and no need to book.

11 – Sites of Special Scientific Interest at Coombe – 40th Birthday Party, Coombe Country Park (all day, free but parking charges apply). Spot herons and all the other creatures who live in the park as we celebrate 40 years of the SSSI at Coombe. Suitable for all the family, and booking

essential on 024 7645 3720.

15-21 (also June 3-9) – Tennis Club, War Memorial Park (£1 per session). New tennis programme by inspire2coach, including a cardio tennis promotion for adults. Times vary, see tennis programme at www.inspire2coach.co.uk Suitable for all ages and standards.

18 – Formal Gardens Tour and Cream Tea, Coombe Country Park (2-4pm, £8pp to include cream tea and parking). Meet at the information centre. Suitable for adults and booking essential on 024 7645 3720.

23 – St George's Day, Broadgate (11am-3pm). The star of the show is Sir Aurelious Jones and the Dragon, an exciting interactive theatrical show.

MAY

9 – Artist's Talk: Jane and Louise Wilson, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (7pm, free). Turner Prize-nominated artists Jane and Louise Wilson discuss their work, in association with Coventry Contemporary Art Forum. To book, call 024 7629 4774 or ask at Herbert reception.

11 – Dawn Chorus, Coombe Country Park (4.30-8am, £4). Enjoy a dawn walk through the park listening to and identifying the park's birds. Suitable for older children. Meet outside the visitor centre. Booking essential on 024 7645 3720.

19 – Pre-season Fishery Tour, Coombe Country Park (2.30-4.30pm, free but parking charges apply). Join the estate officer for a tour of the lake with information on past season catches and what work we are doing to improve the overall fishing experience. Meet in fishery car park. Booking essential on 024 7645 3720.

22 (until 24) – Arabian Nights, Coombe Country Park (free but parking charges apply). Coventry University students' promenade performance of Arabian Nights. Meet outside the visitor centre.

22 (until 26) – Planet Circus, Hearsall Common (5-9pm). A human circus to make you smile. Go to www.planetcircus.net to find out more.

25 – Cupcake Painting Workshop, Coombe Country Park (11am, £7 per painter). Paint your own cupcake on a mountboard. Meet at Heron's

Café. Suitable for families. To book, call 024 7668 9309.

29 – Family Survival Skills Challenge Day, Coombe Country Park (Shelter building 10.30am-12.30pm; Firelighting 1.30-3.30pm. £10 per family team per session or book both sessions for £15). Family teams race to build a shelter and light a fire in the woodland. Meet at the information centre. Booking essential on 024 7645 3720

30 – Mad Hatter's Tea Party, War Memorial Park (1.30-3.30pm, £2.70). Decorate a plate and cup and create some inedible cupcakes. Meet in the education room at the Visitor Centre. Suitable for families, no need to book.

JUNE

1 – Butterfly Day, Coombe Country Park (all day, £1 per sheet). Pick up one of our butterfly trails in the information centre. No need to book.

8 – Give it a Go at Coombe, Coombe Country Park (10am-2pm, free but parking charges). Find out about volunteer work at Coombe. Meet at Visitor Centre. Suitable for older teenagers, and no need to book.

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM

An Exhibition of Emergency Vehicles Through the Ages

Perfect For a **FREE** Family Day Out!

22 March to 16 June 2013

PLUS – Special family events to complement this exhibition:

Saturday 13th April & Sunday 26th May

999 Family Days

Emergency vehicle displays outside the Museum and hands on experiences for kids.

School Holiday Activities

Emergency services-themed craft activities and family trails during the Easter and Whitsun school holidays.

Free Admission

www.transport-museum.com



Keeping the story alive

I BABLAKE

Cllrs Galliers and Kershaw hold regular surgeries: Coronation Club, Keresley Rd 12 noon -1.00pm on the first Saturday of the month. Allesley Parish Church Hall, 5-6pm on the second Monday of the month or contact them directly as below:
Cllr David Galliers: 07973 780871 or e-mail david.galliers@coventry.gov.uk
 twitter @davidgalliers
 www.facebook.com/AllesleyCoundonAndKeresley
 www.bablakelabour.com
Cllr David Kershaw CBE: 024 7671 1107 or 07850 664576 or e-mail david.kershaw@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Andrew Williams: Call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail andrew.williams@coventry.gov.uk

I BINLEY & WILLENHALL

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

I CHEYLESMORE

Cllrs Foster and Noonan hold regular surgeries: Cheylesmore Community Centre 6.30-8pm on last Wednesday of each month (except December) and at Whitley Community Centre every second Saturday of the month 1-2pm or contact them directly as below:
Cllr Kevin Foster: Call 024 7683 1276 (day) or e-mail kevin.foster@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Hazel Noonan: Call 024 7683 1039 (day) or 024 7650 5109 (evenings) or e-mail hazel.noonan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Harjinder Singh Sehmi: Last Friday of the month at Cheylesmore Social Club, Quinton Park, 6-7pm or call for an appointment on 07507 687268 or 07956 491443 or e-mail harjinder.singhsehmi@coventry.gov.uk

I EARLSDON

Cllr Allan Andrews: Surgeries held second Thursday of every month (except August) 6-7pm at West Orchard United Reformed Church, Baginton Rd. For a home visit call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail allan.andrews@coventry.gov.uk or follow on twitter @allanandrews
Cllr Michael Hammon: Call 024 7644 8585 for an appointment or e-mail michael.hammon@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Ken Taylor OBE: Call 024 7667 3717 for an appointment.

I FOLESHILL

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

I HENLEY

Cllr Lynnette Kelly: Call 024 7671 1682 or e-mail lynnette.kelly@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Kevin Maton: Call 07941 827229 or e-mail kevin.maton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Ed Ruane: Call 07817 218137 or e-mail ed.ruane@coventry.gov.uk. For our assistance call us or visit us at 4pm on the third Thursday of every month at Moat House Leisure Centre, Winstanley Ave, Henley Green.

I HOLBROOK

Cllr Joe Clifford: Every Wednesday, 6.30-7.30pm at Holbrook Community Care Assoc, Holbrooks Lane. Call 024 7646 5315 or e-mail joseph.clifford@coventry.gov.uk

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

I LONGFORD

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

I LOWER STOKE

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

I RADFORD

Cllr Mal Mutton: Call 024 7630 4497 or 024 7683 1039 for an appointment or e-mail mal.mutton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Keiran Mulhali: Every Tuesday at Radford Social Club, 226, Radford Rd, CV6 3BQ from 6.30-7.30pm. Also Radford Social Club on the first Sunday of the month 11.30am-12.30pm. Or call 024 7683 1039 for an appointment.
Cllr Tony Skipper: Available to see Radford residents at Coventry Coachmakers' Club, 72 Radford Rd, CV1 4BY. To make an appointment or to leave a message, call 024 7683 1039.

I ST MICHAEL'S

Joint surgeries every second Friday of the month 5-6pm at St Anne and All Saints Community Hall, Acacia Avenue.
Cllr David Welsh: First Saturday of each month, 12-1pm at the Redeemed Christian Church of God (former Howitzer Club), Albert St. Third Friday of each month, 3-4pm at the Regeneration Office, 121-124 Far Gosford Street. Call 07956 307 437 or e-mail david.welsh@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Naem Akhtar: Surgeries every first Tuesday of the month, 5-6pm at Hillfields Youth Centre, Yardley St. For an appointment call 07747 003141 or e-mail naem.akhtar@coventry.gov.uk.
Cllr Jim O'Boyle: Second Saturday of each month, 12-1pm at Zeenat Restaurant, Cambridge St, Hillfields, fourth Saturday of month, noon at Transport House, Short St. Call 024 7669 4873 or 024 7683 1032, or e-mail jim.o'boyle@coventry.gov.uk

I SHERBOURNE

Cllr Seamus Walsh: Call 07956 546983 or 024 7683 1039 (day), or e-mail seamus.walsh@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Alison Gingell: For an appointment call 07541 741617 or e-mail alison.gingell@coventry.gov.uk

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

I UPPER STOKE

Cllr Kamran Caan: For an appointment or home visit call 07730 111101 or e-mail kamran.caan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Sucha Bains: Barras Green Social Club, Coventry St, between 12 noon-12.45pm every Saturday or call 024 7645 9484.
Cllr Colleen Fletcher: For an appointment text 07939 111992, (will be happy to call you back) or call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail colleen.fletcher@coventry.gov.uk

I WAINBODY

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

I WESTWOOD

Cllr Maya Ali: Surgeries every third Thursday of the month, 4.30-5.30pm at the Tanyard Community Centre, Tanyard Close, Coventry, CV4 9TS. For an appointment call 07949 653 656 or e-mail maya.ali@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr David Skinner: Call 024 7683 1039 (day) or 024 7646 8106 (out of hours) or e-mail david.skinner@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Richard Sandy: Surgeries held at The Lime Tree Club, Templar Ave second Saturday of the month from 12 noon -1pm and every fourth Saturday of the month from 11.30am-12.30pm at Canley Library, Prior Deram Walk. For an appointment call 07949 900445 or e-mail richard.sandy@coventry.gov.uk

I WHOBERLEY

Cllr Dan Howells: If you require help or advice I can visit you in your home or at a time and place convenient to you. To arrange an appointment call 07540 083974 or e-mail dan.howells@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Jayne Innes: Surgeries every fourth Saturday of the month except December, July and August from 12 noon at Allesley Park Library. Also you can ring 02476 405 132 or email jayne.innes@coventry.gov.uk for an appointment or home visit outside these times.
Cllr Bally Singh: Regular Surgeries are held every third Saturday of the month 10am-noon at St Mary Magdalene Centre, Sir Thomas White Rd. Also morning chat every first Friday of the month 8.30-9am at Stoke Bakery, Allesley Park. Call 07779 256898 for an appointment, or e-mail bally.singh@coventry.gov.uk

I WOODLANDS

Cllrs Hetherton and Thomas hold regular surgeries on the fourth Friday of each month at Tile Hill Library, Jardine Cres from 5-7pm
Cllr Patricia Hetherton: Please call 07985 811881 for an appointment or e-mail patricia.hetherton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Steven Thomas: For an appointment call my residents' hotline 07535 423796 or email steven.thomas@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Julia Lepoidevin: For an appointment, call 024 7683 1039 (day), 07944 458 751 or e-mail julia.lepoidevin@coventry.gov.uk

I WYKEN

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

Cabinet Members

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

Committees

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 C Cllr Lancaster DC Cllr Singh Sehmi
Planning C Cllr Maton DC Cllr Mulhall
Audit C Cllr Chater DC Cllr Bains
Scrutiny Co-ordination
 C Cllr Bigham DC Cllr Skipper
Wellness, Liveability and Public Health (Scrutiny Board 1)
 C Cllr Fletcher DC Cllr Innes
Children and Young People (Scrutiny Board 2)
 C Cllr M Mutton DC Cllr Sweet
Jobs, Skills and Growth (Scrutiny Board 3)
 C Cllr Lakha DC Cllr Gannon
Streets and Neighbourhoods (Scrutiny Board 4)
 C Cllr Abbott DC Cllr Clifford
Health, Social Care and Welfare Reform (Scrutiny Board 5)
 C Cllr Welsh DC Cllr Hetherton
Transport and Infrastructure Development (Scrutiny Board 6)
 C Cllr Howells DC Cllr Sandy
 C = Chair DC = Deputy Chair

Coventry MPs

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

European MPs

West Midlands Region

CONSERVATIVE - Malcolm Harbour, Philip Bradbourn, 285 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7EL. Call 01676 530621 or 01676 530297
LABOUR - Michael Cashman, Terry Duffy House, Thomas Street, West Bromwich B70 6NT. Call 0121 569 1923
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - Phil Bennion, Haunton Manor Farm, Haunton, Tamworth M79 9HN
UKIP - Mike Natrass, 123 New John Street, Birmingham, B6 4LD. Call 0121 333 7737
WE DEMAND A REFERENDUM - Nikki Sinclair, 123 New John Street, Birmingham, B6 4LD. Call 0121 359 5933



HOME IMPROVEMENTS

COVENTRY BUILDING CONTROL

ARE YOU PLANNING HOME IMPROVEMENTS?

Contact the Building Control Team at Coventry City Council to ensure that any changes to your home are carried out safely and in an environmentally friendly way.

WHAT TYPE OF BUILDING WORK DO WE HELP WITH?

- Home extensions
- Alterations to load bearing elements like chimney, BRICKS and walls
- Loft and garage conversions
- Solar panels and electricity generation
- Roof renewal and thermal upgrades
- Creating new rooms - including some conservatories
- Adding and altering drainage
- Changing a building's use
- Installation of windows

REMEMBER

Local Authority Building Control is usually **cheaper** than private inspectors. Ask us for a quote.

Ask your agent or architect if they are using a local authority inspector - it is **your** property and **you** can insist that they do!

If you would like one of our officers to visit you at your home, just contact us. We provide a free pre-application service.

Before carrying out any building works, contact your local Authority Building Control.

SEVEN GOOD REASONS TO USE LOCAL AUTHORITY BUILDING CONTROL

1. Superb local knowledge

Our local authority surveyors are on your doorstep, understand local conditions and homes.

2. Professional

Our surveyors provide independent professional advice, and the completion certificate that is recorded at the Council for all future enquiries.

3. Regular updates

We provide regular updates on the building regulations and other developments.

4. Quality assured

We have qualified surveyors with expertise in areas such as building design, energy conservation, emergency escape and noise prevention.

5. Quick response

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HOW TO CONTACT US

Coventry City Council, Floor 2, Civic Centre 4,
Much Park Street, Coventry CV1 2PY

Telephone: 024 7683 2057

Fax: 024 7683 2049

E-mail: buildingcontrol@coventry.gov.uk

Belgrade
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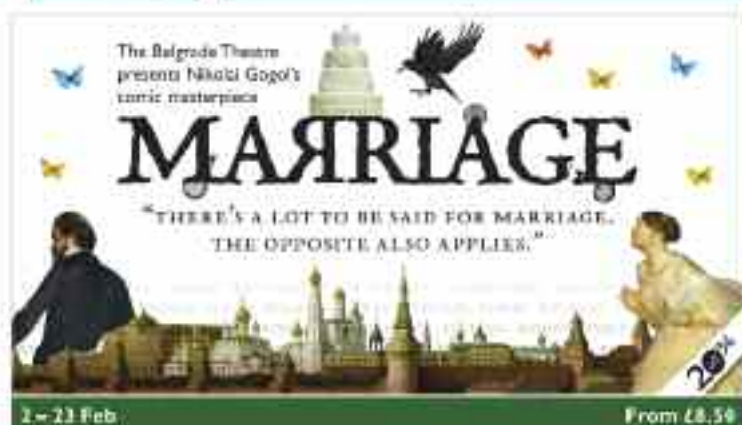
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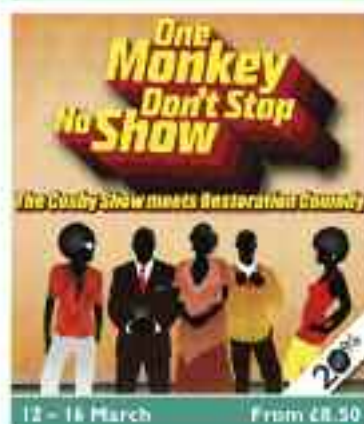
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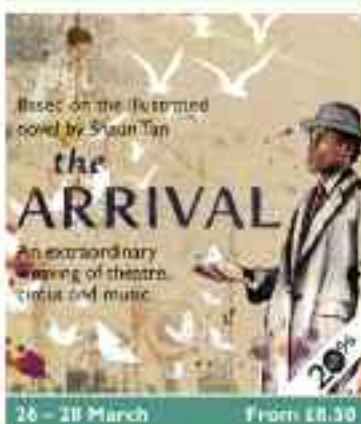


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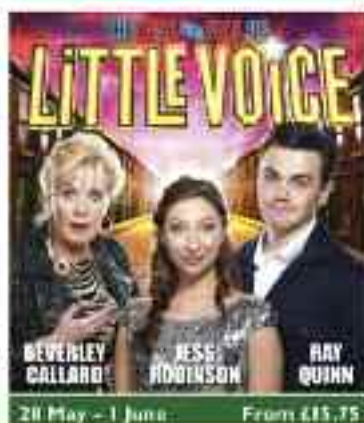
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