

FRIARGATE

COVENTRY

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER **SUMMER 2016**



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FRIARGATE CREATES MORE THAN 100 JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Since September 2015, Bowmer & Kirkland – the contractor delivering the first Friargate building – has employed just over 100 Coventry people, and is on track to employ even more by the end of the year.

Three more apprentices are also being taken on under Coventry City Council's Construction Shared Apprenticeship Scheme, following in the footsteps of 18 year-old Steve Jenkinson, who began working as a carpentry apprentice at Friargate in January.

Cllr Kevin Maton, Cabinet Member for Education at Coventry City Council, said, "I'm delighted that we have been able to work with Bowmer & Kirkland and that they have taken on so many local people. They are really committed to supporting young people into the construction sector."

We talk to new 18 year-old bricklaying apprentice Bailey Keith, who lives in the city, about what it is like to work on Coventry's biggest regeneration scheme.

Bailey, how long have you been working at Friargate and how did you get involved?

I was already part of the Shared Apprenticeship Scheme, but was so impressed by the size of Friargate when I was walking past one day that I asked the scheme if I could work here. And here I am!

What do you do on a typical day and what skills are you learning?

Every day is really busy but my main role is to help the bricklayers lay bricks and blocks. This involves mixing mortar, laying the bricks, pointing and keeping the area clean. Along with learning these new skills, I am also learning to be organised! Being organised and logical is key to the job.

What is your favourite bit about the job?

I'm enjoying learning new skills and working on site, but the best part of the day is lunch! I really enjoy socialising with the team, as it can sometimes be difficult to have a conversation when you are concentrating on the job, with the noise of a building site around you.

Would you recommend an apprenticeship to other people?

Definitely! You can learn new skills while earning good money. Of course, it helps when you get to work on a huge development like Friargate.

To find out more about Coventry & Warwickshire Shared Apprenticeships, contact scheme co-ordinator Pete Brady on 07768 776 771.

The scheme is part of Ambition Coventry which is a Youth Employment Initiative partly funded through the European Social Fund.

Main photo: Bailey Keith

Inset: Steve Jenkinson





SECOND BUILDING GETS THE GO-AHEAD

Planning permission has been secured to build Friargate's second building – a striking 14 storey office block with stunning views across the city.

Two Friargate will provide top quality office space and complement One Friargate, which will be home to Coventry City Council staff when it is completed in 2017.

Two Friargate: the technical details

- Designed by Allies & Morrison
- 14 storeys
- Over 100,000 sq ft of space
- Floorplates from 11,000 sq ft upwards

For details, call Bilfinger GVA:
Ian Stringer 0121 609 8308
Adrian Griffith 0121 609 8347
Andy Venables 0121 609 8427

Designed by internationally-renowned architects Allies & Morrison, there will be a glazed pavilion on the top level providing unrivalled views over the city. The ground floor will have restaurant/café space, creating a lively frontage onto Station Square – the newly-opened, tree-lined pedestrian boulevard and public space at the heart of the new Friargate district.

Friargate property agent Ian Stringer, of Bilfinger GVA said: "Securing planning permission is a really exciting milestone, enabling us to bring the next building in the Friargate scheme to life. Located just 80 metres from the train station, Two Friargate will provide first rate office space with superb transport links."

Coventry is the sixth best place in the country to work, according to a study by jobs site Glassdoor.

The city finished ahead of London, Manchester, Oxford and Birmingham in the study, based on how easy it is to get a job, affordability of housing and employee satisfaction.

With a population of more than 325,000, the average salary in Coventry is £35,000 and the average house price is £184,397.

The most popular jobs in the city are maintenance engineers, sales managers and customer service advisors.

FRIARGATE BACKS COVENTRY SPORTING STAR KARE

Friargate is backing one of Coventry's brightest sporting stars as she heads to the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games to take part in the Paralympics.

15 year-old Kare Adenegan will be competing in the September games as a wheelchair racer – and Friargate has sponsored a new set of carbon fibre wheels for her chair.

Stephen Reynolds, of Friargate, said: "We hope that the new wheels will help Kare record the fastest time possible and bring a medal back to Coventry for Great Britain."

Kare has cerebral palsy and was inspired to join a wheelchair academy in the city after watching the London 2012 Paralympics on television.

The T34 wheelchair racer wowed trainers straight from the off. At a trial session on an upright racing chair, she completed her first attempt at 100 metres in only 27 seconds – the 16th fastest time in the world.

Aged 14, Kare went on to beat two-time Paralympic champion Hannah Cockcroft in the women's 400m at the IPC Athletics Grand Prix Final in London. Hannah had previously gone 300 races, and seven years, without being beaten.

Kare is concentrating on her final preparations for Rio 2016, after winning silver medals in the 100m and 800m races at the IPC Swiss Nationals in May.

For more information about Kare, visit:

kareadenegan.com

[@kareadenegan](https://www.facebook.com/kareadenegan)



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Coventry Railway Station manager
Sarah Grice answers our questions



How long have you been the station manager here at Coventry? Why did you want to take on the role?

I am part way through a six month secondment which started in March. It is such a wide ranging role, one that allows me to build on my experiences to date and develop as a person. Virgin is great in supporting their people that way. As someone who started off on the platforms I never for one minute dreamt I'd get the opportunity to be a station manager, let alone in my home city.

Can you describe a typical day?

I really don't think such a thing exists on the railway. You never know what each day will present and it is that variety that really appeals and keeps you on your toes. The focus for me, and our team of just under 50 at Coventry, is always our customers. Whether they are heading off to work, down to London for a day out or up to Scotland, it is important we make them welcome in a safe and friendly environment 363 days a year.

Does Coventry station present any unique challenges? How do you approach these?

Aside from the 270+ trains that call at the station each day I think it is fair to say the station had started to look a bit tired. That's why we're spending the best part of £1m to reinvigorate the ticket area and retail facilities, - a task made that extra bit more challenging by the fact the station is a listed building.

What is your favourite thing about the City of Coventry?

I'm incredibly proud to be from Coventry. I was born here and feel it's got a spirit and energy, always reinventing when needed. And I am a self-confessed 'petrol head', a regular visitor to the Stock Car racing

at Brandon with my Dad over the years. So even though I work for a train company I'm a big fan and very proud of our motoring heritage.

In your view, how is Coventry changing? How are you adapting to that change as Station Manager?

Coventry is on the up. In the past four years the number of people using the station annually has grown by 20% to just over 6.2m journeys. Outside of the major Network Rail managed stations it is one of the busiest on the West Coast Main Line. Managing this growth and reflecting the changing needs of our customers is the biggest challenge. The most important thing is that we continue to listen and innovate. If you have been down to the station of late you will have

seen the work taking place, something that will transform the customer experience, making best use of new technology whilst maintaining that friendly personal touch that Virgin Trains is renowned for.

What do you think Friargate will bring to the area around the station, and the city as a whole? What are you looking forward to most?

For me it has already transformed the area. It was almost like the station was hidden away before and divorced from the city centre. It is now far more visible, standing proud with a much greater sense of togetherness. The railway station is a vital artery to and from the city and our team are the ambassadors. That's what really excites me.



ONE FRIARGATE TAKES SHAPE

A tale of two cranes, as construction continues on Friargate's first office building.



The first Friargate building – which will house many of Coventry City Council's office-based staff from next year – is rapidly taking shape.

A second tower crane joined the construction site in May to help install 1,000 tonnes of steel framing – see a timelapse video of the steelworks on our website friargatecoventry.co.uk

The completion of the steelwork means that contractor Bowmer & Kirkland can start work on the concrete cladding. Around 300 pre-cast cladding panels – each weighing eight tonnes – will be craned onto the building over the next 12 weeks.

Paul Kelly, Bowmer & Kirkland project manager, told us that he is really pleased with the pace of development: "Friargate continues to progress very quickly, and the fact that passers-by can really see the difference week after week only makes them more interested in what is going on.

"We can't wait to complete the cladding and start showing off how the building is really going to look. We are now getting into the really exciting part of the construction process for local people."

You can view the progress being made on One Friargate by viewing the time lapse camera: friargatecoventry.co.uk/progress/time-lapse-camera

BUILDING FAMILY HISTORY

A humble brick unlocks a key to the past for local barrister Alicia Collinson.

What are the chances? Eagle-eyed barrister Alicia Collinson spotted a brick imprinted with the words 'Cherry Orchard' as she walked past the Friargate construction site, and ended up with a memento of her family's history!

Curious about her great grandfather – who had owned a local brickworks – Alicia inspected some of the bricks unearthed during the demolition process on one of her regular journeys between the train station and the County Court.

Wondering if her great grandfather could have made any of them, after a bit of research she found that the Cherry Orchard Brick Co, which was imprinted on a number of the bricks, had belonged to Percy Richard Croydon – her great grandfather.

Alicia approached Friargate project manager Paul Kelly, of Bowmer & Kirkland, to see if she could take home a brick as a souvenir.

Luckily, Paul still had a few to give her as a keepsake, and she is now using them as doorstops, with the lettering permanently on display.



THOUSANDS ATTEND LAUNCH OF COVENTRY'S CITY OF CULTURE BID

Thousands of people turned out for the launch of Coventry's Friargate-backed bid to become the UK City of Culture 2021.

The bid team took over the Rhythm Tent at the recent Godiva Festival, treating crowds to a range of music, dance, theatre and activities such as graffiti art.

David Burbidge, Chair of the Coventry City of Culture Trust, hailed the public's support for the launch: "The people of Coventry have shown that they are truly behind our bid to be City of Culture and it was great to be able to showcase such a wide variety of artists and performers from every corner of the city. It really was the perfect launch.

"But this is just the beginning. We are determined to win this title for Coventry and that means getting as much support as we possibly can,

including on social media, because, when all is said and done, this is the people's bid and it will be the people of Coventry who get all the benefits of UK City of Culture."

A successful bid could be worth up to £80 million to the local economy in the year alone, as well as providing a positive social and cultural legacy.

In addition to Friargate, other bid sponsors include: The University of Warwick, Coventry University, Jaguar Land Rover, Ricoh Arena, Coventry Building Society, the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and CEF (City Electrical Factors).

For more information on Coventry's City of Culture bid, visit: coventry2021.co.uk

"The people of Coventry have shown that they are truly behind our bid to be City of Culture."



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STREET FOOD AT FRIARGATE

Friargate's street food market made a welcome return to Station Square. Crowds of hungry residents and workers turned out to sample dishes ranging from quesadillas and pulled pork to deep fried Oreos.

Traders included Bare Bones Pizza, Spangles, All Terrain Coffee, Street Chef and the Pork Society.



Please contact us on: info@friargatecoventry.co.uk @FriargateCov #YourCov

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