CITY OF CULTURE 2021

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COVENTRY IS
CITY OF CULTURE 2021

Coventry is gearing up for one of the biggest years in its history after being named UK City of Culture 2021!

The city beat off competition from Paisley, Stoke, Sunderland and Swansea to win the prestigious national title and was named the winner live on BBC TV.

Work has already started to deliver the plans for an incredible 12 months that were set out in the city’s bid to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Friargate was one of the bid sponsors.

Laura McMillan, Manager of the Coventry City of Culture Trust, said: “This is a win for Coventry, a win for young people and a win for diversity. The economic impact will be huge for the city and the West Midlands.

“It’s been a bid by and for the people of Coventry. It has brought so many people and organisations together and this is just the start. “Over the next three years we will ensure that everyone in the city, which has been moving people by cycle, car and jet engine, is now moving through culture.”

Coventry’s schedule will include a Streets of Cultures programme co-producing work in local communities. The first build-up event will be the UK’s first Shop Front Theatre Festival this March and the city will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its Cathedral with a major new lighting commission. A 2.2 mile Ring Road poem is set to be one of the digital centrepieces of 2021 along with major productions by the RSC and the screening of the entire works of Shakespeare in iconic locations.

Stephen Reynolds of Friargate said: “The effort put in by people all across the city to ensure Coventry secured this title has been incredible – congratulations to everyone involved.

“Friargate backed the bid because we believe in the city and all it has to offer – be it medieval architecture, a thriving arts, music and sports scene, a ground breaking automotive industry, two world class universities or its extensive regeneration.

“Coventry now has so much to show the world leading up to and during 2021.”

To find out more, go to @Coventry2021 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit www.coventry2021.co.uk
The Friargate faces are back! The distinctive green and white hoarding featuring smiling people describing why they love Coventry has been reinstalled along Station Square – the busy walkway linking Coventry Rail Station to the city centre.

Some of the faces – Cynthia, Rishard, Susan, Sabir and Tally – remain from the last time the hoarding graced the Square. Newcomers are: Tayyibah Mota, who is a fine art student at Coventry University and a member of the city’s Positive Youth Foundation (PYF), and Ashley Jordan, a dancer and performer and co-founder of Coventry company Ascension Dance.

Stephen Reynolds, of Friargate, said: “It is great to see Ashley and Tayyibah as the latest faces on the hoarding. Each person has been chosen because they represent the vibrancy of Coventry – and because they love the city!

“Coventry’s winning bid to become UK City of Culture 2021 was based on the city’s reputation for welcoming people from across the world and these happy smiling faces reinforce this welcome.”

What do you love about Coventry? Tell us by tweeting us at @friargatecov using #YourCov
MINISTER MAKES A VISIT

Margot James MP, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility, is one of Friargate’s latest high profile visitors.

Ms James called into One Friargate to launch the new Coventry & Warwickshire Business Festival – the region’s largest business event.

It was developed by the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) and the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP Growth Hub and partnered by the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC).

Jonathan Browning, chair of CWLEP, said: “Margot James gave a fantastic endorsement to the Business Festival in her presentation at the launch. The Festival has illustrated the potential of our region as a beacon for investment with the number of businesses of all sizes that have been involved.”

Other recent Friargate visitors include the City of Culture 2021 judging panel – headed up by TV producer and writer Phil Redmond CBE.

If you’re feeling cold this winter, nip over to the Human Power Station located between One Friargate and Coventry Train Station.

Three pieces of gym equipment – a spinning bike, recumbent bike and a hand bike – have been installed to help people get fit for free. Even better – you can plug in your phone or electrical device to charge it as you work out.

The Human Power Station has been launched by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) as part of its West Midlands on the Move physical activity strategy to boost the wellbeing of people in the region. It also promotes the creation of sustainable energy.

Andy Street, West Midlands Mayor and chair of the WMCA, said: “Physical inactivity is bad in some parts of the region, especially in disadvantaged areas, and we cannot be comfortable that it is not up to the same standards everywhere. If we don’t get this right there will be lots more demand on public services such as the NHS, and on our mental and physical health, so we must change trajectory around physical activity.”

The Human Power Station has been given a big thumbs up from taxi drivers who queue up nearby to wait for customers. Tara Heer said: “It’s great for us, so much better than sitting in cars all day.”

This is Coventry’s first Human Power Station, with more set to appear next year.

For more information contact Simon Hall 0121 214 7093 or Dean Hill 07720 844084
During a visit to the office, staff told us they were already seeing huge benefits from their new base – which has open plan office space and break-out areas on each floor.

Mamta Dhand from the Organisational Development team said: “I just love One Friargate. It’s really user friendly and utilises space more effectively than our previous buildings. We all feel like a big team – regardless of job title. It feels really interactive and professional.”

One Friargate’s location next to Coventry train station, buses and taxi ranks has also received the thumbs up. “I travel a lot with work, so it’s great that the station is right next door as it cuts down on my travel time” said Ben Yorke, of the Economic Development Service. Latest technology and facilities including video conferencing and touch down zones support the Council’s increasingly mobile workforce.

Open plan kitchen areas mean that staff can take a break from their desks and catch up over lunch. But there’s no shortage of places to go if retail therapy is required. “We have got the choice of local shops like Murray’s Café, Central Six Retail Park or the city centre. Options are endless!” said Jade Skilling of Organisational Development.

Scott Morris manages the building. He added: “I moved to Coventry from Leicester four months ago and love it. I work in a fantastic building and find so much to do in Coventry.”

By moving into One Friargate, the Council has been able to dispose of 18 of 27 buildings, generating £500,000 savings a year and cutting its carbon footprint by a third.

Around 1,350 members of Coventry City Council staff have now moved into their new home at One Friargate – and seem to have settled in pretty quickly!
ANOTHER AWARD FOR FRIARGATE

In recognition of the impact it has made over the past 12 months, Friargate has been crowned West Midlands Regeneration Project of the Year in the West Midlands Property Awards.

Successes at the £700 million business district include:
- Completion of the first 11-storey building, One Friargate
- Securing planning permission for the second building, Two Friargate
- Delivery of Station Square, the tree-lined walkway linking Friargate with Coventry Station

The prize also recognises Friargate’s involvement with Coventry life:
- Sponsorship of the city’s 2021 City of Culture bid, Paralympic athlete Kare Adenegan and Coventry Sphinx football club
- Regular engagement with local people through meetings and newsletters
- Local employment: more than 320 construction workers and 28 apprentices have been employed on site to date

Stephen Reynolds of Friargate said: “I am very proud of this award as it reflects the huge impact that Friargate has had on Coventry, and I would like to thank everyone involved. The scheme has not only kick-started the city’s regeneration by bringing new life to the previously dilapidated area around the Station, but also had a positive impact on the community and the image of the city.”

Earlier this year the construction team at One Friargate bagged a bronze award in the Considerate Constructors Scheme for its exceptionally thoughtful approach on site.

TWO FRIARGATE
OFFICES TO LET

Contact Adrian Griffith
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GETTING CHILDREN WALKING

We challenged hundreds of children across the city to get to school by foot as part of International Walk to School month.

Friargate sponsored children at St Osburg’s, All Saints and Clifford Bridge primary schools, providing them with resources including wallcharts and reward badges to encourage them to get walking.

The Walk to School Month initiative is supported by the UK’s charity for everyday walking, Living Streets, to help reverse the decline in walking to school – which has vastly declined since the 1970s.

Mina Sharma, deputy headteacher at All Saints Church of England Primary School in Strathmore Avenue, said the project had a positive impact on pupils:

“The initiative has really made a difference. Many of our parents now park their cars some distance from the school, so they can complete the journey on foot with their children. We are also considering creating a daily walking bus to and from school in the future. Transport habits look set to improve for the long term, which is fantastic.”

Stephen Reynolds of Friargate added: “Walking and using public transport are key to the Friargate development. The train station, Virgin bike hub, taxi rank, and bus stops are all on the doorstep and we have created the Station Square public realm to create a safe and pleasant walkway between the station and the city centre. So we were very keen to support Coventry schools this Walk to School month.”

UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENTS TO COVENTRY RAIL STATION

Improvements to Coventry rail station are a step closer, with planning applications for the multi-million pound scheme set to be submitted.

The plans include creating a second footbridge to connect all four platforms, extension of the existing canopies, a second entrance onto Warwick Road with step-free access to all platforms and a multi-storey car park for 600 vehicles. A new bus interchange will also be connected to the station building via a new access tunnel under Warwick Road.

Local people had their say about the plans at drop-in sessions and feedback was positive – with residents and rail users looking forward to a new look station – the fastest growing outside London.

Councillor David Welsh, Deputy Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration at Coventry City Council said: “I’m delighted local people like the plans for the station. These improvements will help it cope with increased capacity as well as providing an attractive welcome to the city. It’s the kind of station locals deserve and the new bus interchange will help make it really accessible for everyone – drivers, pedestrians and bus users.”

The project has received funding from the Government’s Local Growth Fund through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise partnership (CWLEP), the Department for Transport and an application for funding has been submitted to the West Midlands Combined Authority.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Check our pick of things to do across Coventry this winter

JANUARY

- Saturday 20 January, 10.00am – 4.00pm
  Crafts of the Punjab Family Celebration
  Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, free/some charge
  theherbert.org

- Saturday 20 January 10.00am – 6.00pm
  Preloved Vintage Kilo Sale Coventry Cathedral
  coventrycathedral.org.uk

FEBRUARY

- Friday 3 February, 10.15am – 3.30pm
  Silversmithing Workshop
  Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, £72
  theherbert.org

- Sunday 4 February, 7.45pm
  Griff Rhys Jones: Where Was I?
  The Goose Nest, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Saturday 10th February, 6pm – 9pm
  Rise Up Fashion Show
  Coventry Cathedral
  coventrycathedral.org.uk

- Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 February
  Hush-a-Bye Family Show
  Helen Martin Studio, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Thursday 8 February, 7.30pm
  Tony Allen the legendary drummer
  Butterworth Hall, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Friday 9 February, 7.30pm
  Suggs: A Life in the Realm of Madness...
  Butterworth Hall, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Saturday 27 January 4.00pm – 7.00pm
  Coventry Cathedral Chorus with Discover the Classics
  Coventry Cathedral, coventrycathedral.org.uk

- Wednesday 31 January – Saturday 3 February
  MTW present: RENT
  The Goose Nest, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Friday 16 February – Sunday 3 June
  POP! British and American Art 1960-75 Exhibition
  Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Free
  theherbert.org

- Saturday 17 February, 3.00pm
  Jay Foreman’s Disgusting Songs for Revolting Children
  Helen Martin Studio, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Sunday 18 February, 7.30pm
  Penguin Café Orchestra
  Butterworth Hall, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Tuesday 20 – Thursday 22 February, 11.00am & 2.00pm
  The Gingerbread Man family show
  Helen Martin Studio, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Friday 23 – Sunday 25 February
  A Tiger’s Tale family show
  The Goose Nest, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Friday 23 February – Sunday 25 February
  The Doodle Dance Show
  Helen Martin Studio, Warwick Arts Centre
  Tickets: warwickartscentre.co.uk

- Saturday 24 February – Sunday 13 May
  New Art West Midlands Exhibition
  Herbert Art Gallery, Free
  theherbert.org

- Wednesday 28 February, 11.00am – 3.00pm
  DDC Friargate Lunch Club
  Station Square, Friargate
  More info: friargatecoventry.co.uk / digbethdiningclub.com