WELCOME FROM WASPS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• New Friargate faces
• Interview: Coombe Abbey
• Kare Adenegan
• Peace Poem
• Boost your digital creativity
• Coventry Sphinx

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WASPS NETBALLERS UNVEILED ON FAMOUS FRIARGATE HOARDING

The faces of Wasps Netball stars Jade Clark and Commonwealth Games gold medal winning teammate Natalie Haythornthwaite have been unveiled on the famous Friargate hoarding.

Wasps CEO Nick Eastwood joined Jade and fellow Wasps players Sam May and Tamsin Moala to reveal the giant smiling images prior to them being fitted to the hoarding.

Jade is England’s all-time appearance record-holder and has re-signed for Wasps for the 2019 Vitality Netball Superleague campaign.

England international Natalie joined Wasps ahead of their inaugural Vitality Netball Superleague campaign, winning back-to-back league titles. Her elite play has led to her joining NSW Swifts in Australia for next season.

17 year-old ‘A’ Level student, entrepreneur and ambassador Daniel Ayodeji, who grew up in Coventry, also unveiled his photo which has been added to the distinctive green and white panels.

In answer to the question on the hoarding ‘Why do you love Coventry?’ Jade and Natalie declared: “Coventry is a passionate sporting city; Wasps Netball is one of the UK’s top performing teams.”

Daniel responds with: “No matter your colour, race, ethnicity or religion, Coventry makes you feel at home.”

Stephen Reynolds of Friargate said: “Wasps has made a huge contribution to the city of Coventry since moving here in 2014, so it is great to see Jade and Natalie on the hoarding alongside local celebrity, Daniel, in recognition of their shared love of the city. They have each made a contribution to the community and are all inspirational individuals who serve as role models. The netballers inspire others to pursue sporting ambitions, while Daniel encourages young people to engage with education, business and local politics.”

Nick Eastwood, CEO of Wasps Group, said: “Since Wasps Netball was born in the city the club has gone from strength to strength on and off the court. Players such as Jade and Natalie have inspired so many women and girls to get involved in the sport, whether it is supporting, playing or volunteering.

It’s great that they will now welcome thousands of people into Coventry every day at Friargate, including those who will be visiting the city as part of this year’s European City of Sport activities.”

Daniel added: “I’m really proud to see my face on the hoarding as I love Coventry and everyone is welcome here. One of my volunteering roles is with the city’s Positive Youth Foundation, an organisation which works hard to help young people fulfil their potential.”

What do you love about Coventry?
Tell us by tweeting us at @ friargatecov using #YourCov.

Huge congratulations to Jade, Natalie and their fellow England team mates for picking up two awards at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year show in recognition of their Commonwealth Games success. They were crowned Team of the Year for the historic triumph and were also awarded Greatest Sporting Moment of the Year for Helen Housby’s score in the final second to give England a 52-51 victory over favourites Australia.
Richard, you have recently been appointed as the Managing Director at Coombe Abbey Park Ltd, but you are not new to Coventry and Warwickshire?

Certainly not! Way back in 1996 I was appointed as the deputy manager at the Ettington Chase in South Warwickshire and later became general manager at Dunchurch Park near Rugby, taking it from a GEC Marconi training centre to a commercial hotel and conference venue. I then worked for Corus Hotels in Solihull before joining Warwick Conferences at the University of Warwick where I rose to become the Head of Conference Centres. I had 12 years there before deciding to move to Coombe Abbey.

Why did you choose Coombe?

Coombe is not only a top-rated hotel, it has almost legendary status in the region and is at a very interesting time in its life. It is a hotel which draws custom – both business and leisure – from across the country and beyond, while the country park has a very loyal customer base and has been a favourite destination for local people for generations.

The hotel has always been very successful and runs at a very high occupancy, so there is a need to develop other commercial activities that are fitting for the surroundings but will allow us to drive up revenue across the business. The management team and I now need to find new and creative ways to do this.

Why do you say it is legendary?

Unique is an over-used word, but it fits perfectly for Coombe. There simply is nowhere like it. For starters it has a fascinating history. It was originally founded as an Abbey in the 12th century. The Abbey was surrendered to King Henry VIII during the dissolution of the monasteries, and the future Queen Elizabeth I even lived here as a child.

Its parklands were designed by Capability Brown, and the park is open to the public. So many people I meet have fond memories of coming here as a child to explore the countryside setting, and it has a place in the collective heart of Coventry and Warwickshire.

Yours is a new role, why was it created?

These are very exciting times for Coombe Abbey and we see great potential not only for the hotel but also for the wider park. The site is owned by Coventry City Council and we have developed some ambitious plans. There is a new pub and café in the grounds and we are progressing plans to create a Go Ape tree-top adventure course. We want to drive the hotel forward and – working in partnership with the city council – see the park helping to create a greater income stream that will ultimately benefit local residents.
Libraries across the city are encouraging adults and children to explore their digital creativity by offering free courses in subjects ranging from computer coding to robotics!

James Cotton, Coventry Libraries ICT coordinator, explained: “Digital Creativity is all about enabling people to use digital platforms to bring their ideas to life.

“We all know that libraries are great places to go for free computer and internet access, and this is really important, but we also want to encourage people of all ages to experiment using digital outlets to express themselves.

“The sessions we’re delivering through public libraries also allow people to learn and practice digital skills together so there’s also a social aspect to them. People can bounce ideas off each other and make new friends.”

BOOST YOUR DIGITAL CREATIVITY WITH COVENTRY LIBRARIES!

FORTHCOMING COURSES:

4-7 year olds
*Code and Go storytimes*
Central Library,
Smithford Way CV1 1FY
024 7683 2314
Sunday 31st March 2-3pm
Sunday 28th April 2-3pm
Sunday 26th May 2-3pm
Sunday 30th June 2-3pm

8-17 year olds
*Coder Dojos*
Central Library
Smithford Way CV1 1FY
024 7683 2314
Mondays 4.30pm-5.30pm
Tuesdays 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Wednesdays 4.30pm-5.30pm
Thursdays 4.30pm-5.30pm

9-13 year olds
*Code Club*
To book onto a session call the relevant library:
Allesley Park Library, Allesley Park Neighbourhood Centre, Whitaker Road CV5 9JE, 024 7678 5813
Mondays 4.30pm-5.30pm
Foleshill Library, Broad Street
CV6 5BG, 024 7678 6977
Tuesdays 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Jubilee Crescent Library, Jubilee Crescent Community Centre, Jubilee Crescent CV6 3EX
Tuesdays 4pm-5pm
Tile Hill Library, Jardine Crescent
CV4 9PL, 024 7678 6785
Tuesdays 5.30pm – 6.30pm
Cheylesmore Library, Cheylesmore Community Centre, Poiters Road
CV3 5JX, 024 7678 6966
Thursdays 5pm – 6pm

4-11 year olds
*Lego Labs*
To book onto a session call the relevant library:
Central Library, Smithford Way
CV1 1FY, 024 7683 2314
Sunday 17th March
1.30pm – 2.30pm
Stoke Library, Kingsway
CV2 4EA, 024 7678 6990
Saturday 2nd March
1.30pm – 2.30pm
Tile Hill Library, Jardine Crescent
CV4 9PL, 024 7678 6785
Saturday 9th March
1.30pm – 2.30pm
Big congratulations to Coventry para-athlete Kare Adenegan, who was crowned BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year.

The 17 year-old picked up her award at the Radio 1 Teen Awards at the SSE Arena, Wembley.

This year Kare became T34 100 metres WPA European champion, winning her first gold medal in a senior competition, and taking silver in the T34 800m.

She also set a new T34 100m world record at the London Anniversary games, by becoming the first female T34 athlete to complete the race in under 17 seconds.

Friargate is a past sponsor of Kare, and we are very proud of her success!
Coventry City Council’s planning committee has granted permission for the two-phase, £82 million transformation of Coventry Station to create a new gateway to the city ahead of 2021 when Coventry celebrates being City of Culture.

Work to create a new footbridge and canopies is underway and the pedestrian tunnel under Warwick Road is already complete. The second phase involves building a multi-storey car park for 633 vehicles, a new station concourse with access to all platforms and Warwick Road, and a new pedestrian route via an access tunnel under Warwick Road to a new bus interchange.

This work is being led by Coventry City Council and supported by SLC Rail, working in partnership with Transport for West Midlands, Friargate LLP, Network Rail, the Department for Transport, Virgin Trains and the wider rail industry. It is funded by the Government’s Local Growth Fund through Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and West Midlands Combined Authority.

Sign up for updates at: www.coventry.gov.uk/stationmasterplan

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We have renewed our sponsorship of Coventry Sphinx Football Club for the third year running. As ‘Golden Ticket’ sponsors, the Friargate brand continues to be seen on the pitch side advertising boards at the club’s ground off Siddeley Avenue. We also feature in the match day programmes and on the club’s website.

Our financial support will help the club’s 22 junior teams with the purchase of new goals, goal netting and respect barriers for the side of the pitches. The new equipment will enhance the teams’ playing experience and help the junior managers ensure that their games meet with the requirements of the FA and local leagues.

We’re proud to be part of the team.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Check our pick of things to do across Coventry this winter

**MARCH**

- **Daily until Saturday 16th March**
  Follow That Hare: An Art and Nature Trail
  Warwick Arts Centre, warwickartscentre.co.uk

- **Daily until Sunday 12th May**
  TAXI: The Story from A to B
  Coventry Transport Museum, transport-museum.com

- **Daily until Sunday 2nd June**
  Wildlife Photographer of the Year
  Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, theherbert.org

- **Sunday 3rd March**
  Nick Sharratt's Right Royal Drawalong
  Warwick Arts Centre, warwickartscentre.co.uk

- **Wednesday 6th March**
  Michael Clark's to a simple, rock 'n' roll ... song
  Warwick Arts Centre, warwickartscentre.co.uk

- **Thursday 7th March**
  Spring in your organic garden
  Ryton Organic Gardens, gardenorganic.org.uk/ryton

- **Friday 8th March**
  Carl Orff's Carmina Burana
  Warwick Arts Centre, warwickartscentre.co.uk

- **Saturday 9th March**
  Robot Day
  Coventry Transport Museum, transport-museum.com

- **Thursday 14th March**
  Fagin's Twist
  Warwick Arts Centre, warwickartscentre.co.uk

- **Friday 15th March**
  Ferocious Dog - Fake News and Propaganda
  The Empire, coventryempire.co.uk

- **Thursday 21st March**
  The Ben Crosland Quintet plays the Ray Davies Songbook
  The Albany Theatre, albanytheatre.co.uk

- **Sunday 24th March**
  Coventry Festival of Running
  5K fun run and Half Marathon
  Coventry, enjoycoventry.com

**APRIL**

- **Wednesday 3rd April, 10am**
  The UK Careers Fair in Coventry Britannia Hotel Coventry
  Fairfax Street, ukcareersfair.com

- **Sunday 7th April, 9am**
  Macmillan Colour Fun Run Hatton Country World Dark Lane, Hatton, Warwick, regevent.co.uk

- **Thursday 11 April 2019 – Saturday 13 April, 7.30pm**
  SPA Theatre Juniors present The Addams Family
  Bridge House Theatre Myton Road Warwick CV34 6PP
  spatheatre.com

- **Friday 12th April, 7.30pm**
  Emily Atack - Talk Thirty to Me
  The Albany Theatre, Coventry, West Midlands CV1 3BH, albanytheatre.co.uk

- **Saturday 13th April, 10am**
  Coventry Bubble Rush 2019 Heart of England Conference and Events Centre Meriden Rd, Fillongley, Coventry
  eventbrite.co.uk

- **Monday 15th April, 10.30am**
  Get Crafty in the Wild Brandon Marsh Nature Centre
  Brandon Lane, Coventry
  warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on

- **Monday 15th April 2019, 12.30pm**
  Minibeast Hunting
  Brandon Marsh Nature Centre Brandon Lane, Coventry
  warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on

- **Tuesday 16th April, 10.30am**
  Den Building
  Brandon Marsh Nature Centre Brandon Lane, Coventry
  warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on

- **Tuesday 16th April, 12.30pm**
  Pond Dipping
  Brandon Marsh Nature Centre Brandon Lane, Coventry
  warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on

- **Wednesday 17th April, 10.30am and 1.30pm**
  Wilderness Wednesdays - Charcoal Making
  Brandon Marsh Nature Centre Brandon Lane, Coventry
  warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on

- **Wednesday 17th April, 10.30am and 1.30pm**
  Wilderness Wednesdays - Pond Dipping
  Brandon Marsh Nature Centre Brandon Lane, Coventry
  warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on

- **Thursday 18th April 2019, 10.30am**
  Nature Tots - Teddy Bear Adventure
  Brandon Marsh Nature Centre Brandon Lane, Coventry
  warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on
Creating **a new business district** for Coventry

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A world class building for a world class city, set in a vibrant new public realm

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