

CommUnity

Connecting us with our neighbours in **Warwickshire** and the region

CULTURAL PROJECTS OPEN TO ALL

We are set to embark on a series of collaborations to bring our research directly to Coventrians in the run-up to UK City of Culture 2021 - and we need your help!

We were proud to work alongside Coventry City Council and other partners on Coventry's successful bid and following last December's announcement that Coventry had been chosen as UK City of Culture 2021, we are now helping to bring the programme to life.

Along with Coventry University, we are joining forces with local cultural groups to collaborate on 13 community-led projects this spring and summer to support Coventry City Council's Cultural Strategy which both universities are jointly funding.

Both universities will be using a diverse range of our research expertise to highlight the Cultural Strategy's goals of partnership, lifelong learning, diversity, health and well-being, and economic growth.

The first project, *Is the future of Humankind, Martiankind?*, will use LEGO Mindstorms and LEGO Architecture to help solve the problem of how to send humans to Mars across five single day workshops in Earlsdon, Bell Green and Willenhall libraries, our campus and Coventry's campus.

Our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart Croft, said: "The spirit of partnership and pride in our city that helped ensure Coventry's selection as the next UK City of Culture is evident in these innovative collaborations.

"Through working together to bring our research to Coventrians, the University of Warwick and our friends from Coventry University are already hard at work and looking forward to 2021 and what will be an exciting time for our region".

To keep updated on these creative projects or to join in go to warwick.ac.uk/cityofculture/whatson



15 YEARS AND COUNTING!

We are proud to celebrate 15 years of indispensable community work by our Warwick Volunteers.

Established in October 2002, Warwick Volunteers uses the skills, energy and enthusiasm of our volunteer students to run a wide variety of projects which benefit people in Coventry, Leamington, Kenilworth and Warwick.

Membership has grown from 552 students in 2003 to over 2,500 this year, and the number of charities, community groups and schools we have supported over this period has also increased.

When looking back through Warwick Volunteers' history, we were interested to discover that the charities and causes which students are interested in supporting have changed very little over time.

Students still really value volunteering to inspire and support children in schools and with extra-curricular activities; volunteering with older people in the community and care homes to help combat loneliness and isolation; projects which help migrants and refugees settle in Coventry and activities which improve the environment.

Our students' energy and desire to support the communities in which they live means that we are consistently delighted and inspired by the new projects our students set up with the local community.

Each year, we present an award for the best project organised by our volunteers

with this year's recipient being the newly-established Warwick Mind Aware scheme.

Students Megan Day and Vicky Thurlby were motivated to look at how to reach out to local young people after coming across statistics which revealed one in 10 children have a diagnosable mental health disorder.

The Warwick Volunteers team helped to organise a project delivering mental health lessons to secondary school pupils through interactive quizzes and sharing information and discussions.

They recruited and trained 41 volunteers, including seven activity leaders, and delivered 24 sessions across years 7, 8 and 9 in two secondary schools in Coventry.

The feedback from the schools has been fantastic and one of the schools has asked for more sessions to be delivered next year.

A local community partner recently commented: "What a great group of people Warwick Volunteers are! They are dedicated and hardworking and always a pleasure to have around. It is lovely to see people from all different backgrounds and cultures doing things together."

Find out more about how Warwick Volunteers could help your school or organisation at warwick.ac.uk/community/volunteers/community



TOP OF THE CLASS

Our Easter boot camp revision sessions were a huge hit – providing A level students with an opportunity to boost their chances of exam success.

More than 120 pupils took part in the three-day session ahead of their exams in May and June.

Targeted sessions, frequent tests, helpful coaching and a studious atmosphere ensured that those who attended left more confident of getting the grades they wanted.

The sessions, which were incentivised with revision treats, formed part of our £2 million widening participation and outreach programme.

This starts with outreach activities in primary schools and continues throughout secondary level with partnerships and programmes aimed at providing opportunities for youngsters from under-represented groups.

The Easter revision camp is now in its third year and helps open up higher education to under-represented groups.

Katrina Howitt, 18, an aspiring chemistry student from Erdington, Birmingham, took part in the sessions and said: "I just really love chemistry. It explains everything."

"The boot camp is absolutely amazing, I think I've learned a lot more here than I've learned in the past few months at college, to be honest."

The boot camp teachers are from a variety of local schools to cover topics including maths, psychology, biology, history and chemistry.

The Government has put increasing pressure on universities not only to widen access to traditionally hard-to-reach students but also to help improve attainment in schools, which we are responding to with innovative programmes such as this.

Find out more about the broad and exciting range of activities we offer at warwick.ac.uk/outreach

INVESTING IN OUR CAMPUS

We're one of the UK's and world's top universities but to maintain this status in a competitive environment, we need to continue to invest in our campus to deliver the right spaces and facilities for our staff, students and local community.

Right now, we're putting the final touches to the National Automotive Innovation Centre in a £150m+ partnership between Jaguar Land Rover, Tata Motors European Technical Centre, WMG and the University of Warwick, along with an expanding network of supplier companies, to develop the latest advances in automotive technology to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

Our new Mathematical Sciences Building is taking shape to support the continued growth of, and collaboration between, our Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Sciences Departments in their work.

We've started work on new student residences at Cryfield Village, to help address the growing demand for on-campus accommodation.

Our 20:20 project is well underway at Warwick Arts Centre to refresh, renew and redevelop facilities with the main theatre and studio due to reopen later this year. Phase 2 then begins from October to create three new cinema screens and a large ground floor gallery together with a new restaurant. We're working hard to keep the Arts Centre open throughout and continue to deliver events and shows throughout this period.

And we're really looking forward to the opening of our new Sports and Wellness Hub on the Warwickshire side of campus in Spring 2019 to help us in our aim to

have the most physically active campus community in the UK. We'll keep in touch with you to let you know how you can join us to enjoy a state-of-the-art gym, 25m swimming pool, 14-metre high climbing wall, speed climbing wall, elite level squash courts, five-a-side pitches as well as a great range of welcoming classes and fitness activities.

You may also have seen that we're consulting with local residents before we submit a planning application to Coventry City Council for a number of new projects on the Coventry side of campus. This application will include detailed proposals for a new Faculty of Arts Building and an Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Building at Gibbet Hill.

As part of the same application, we will also submit outline plans for new student residences, academic buildings, a replacement multi-storey carpark and improved public realm, all to be delivered over the next two to three years.

Looking ahead, we're updating our current masterplan, which has been in place since 2009. This will be developed during 2018, and we will seek your views as the process develops.

Keep up to date with our plans for campus and find out how you can tell us what you think at warwick.ac.uk/community



SPORTS AND WELLNESS HUB ALREADY BENEFITING OUR REGION

Our Sports and Wellness Hub is having a positive impact on our region before it's even finished.

Willmott Dixon, our contractors for the Hub, have used the site to train, educate and engage with people from all over the local area.

Over 250 people from educational institutions have visited the site to date. Students from several schools are currently

on-site, gaining valuable work experience in the construction industry.

Keep up to date with the latest developments with this project at warwick.ac.uk/sport/about/facilities/sports-hub



ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS AT FAMILY DAY 10am-5pm Sunday 10 June 2018

Our latest Family Day is inviting you to enjoy the great outdoors.

Family Day brings together a rich mix of family-friendly arts and sports activities across the University of Warwick campus.

On Sunday 10 June, we are inviting you to come along, grab a map and explore our site to discover free games, activities and events as you go.

On the day, families can take part in archery, cricket, tennis and football

or get creative in our arts and craft workshops. If you want to relax and take a break you can enjoy our picnic areas or sample delicious treats from our market stalls or watch films in our cinema.

Join in the fun from 10am to 5pm at this free event where all are welcome.

Find out more at warwick.ac.uk/community/warwickfamilydays

NO LONGER INVISIBLE!

A microscope will be put on the Miniature World of Microbes at a unique event.

If you want to know more about antibiotic resistance or how manipulative bacteria can be then come along to Invisible Cities: The Miniature World of Microbes on Sunday 3 June.

Our experts will lead a lively discussion in microbial science before getting into a more relaxed chat over pizza and beer at the Kenilworth Centre on Abbey End.

The event is free but places are limited so registration is essential. For more information visit warwick.ac.uk/invisiblecities

SHARING STORIES OF THE NHS

We are looking for your stories on NHS experiences to help with a new BBC documentary.

The People's History of the NHS is being put together by the BBC and the University of Warwick, so we are crowdsourcing objects and mementoes that evoke strong memories of the service in order to put together the BBC Four show.

Whether you are or were a member of staff or a patient, visit www.peopleshistorynhs.org/member-register/ or contact the TV team at: peopleshistoryNHS@7wonder.co.uk

OPERA FOR ALL

Join us for three world-class opera and ballet performances beamed from the Royal Opera House directly to the Big Screen at the Piazza, next to the Students' Union and Warwick Arts Centre, for free.

Don't miss The Royal Ballet's stunning performance of *Swan Lake* on Tuesday 12 June before The Royal Opera bring *La bohème* to life on Tuesday 26 June and *Don Giovanni* on Thursday 12 July.

For more details visit roh.org.uk/about/bp-big-screens



KEY DATES

Market Days at the Piazza
11am-3pm: 23 May, 6 Jun, 20 Jun

Open Days
Fri 22 Jun, Sat 23 Jun,
Sat 6 Oct, Sat 20 Oct

Graduation Ceremonies
17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24,
25 July 2018

Arrivals Weekend
Sat 22 and Sun 23 Sep 2018

Welcome Week
Mon 24 - Sun 30 Sep 2018

Autumn Term
Mon 1 Oct - Sat 8 Dec 2018

Spring Term
Mon 7 Jan - Sat 16 Mar 2019

Summer Term
Wed 24 Apr - Sat 29 Jun 2019

Comments welcome

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter, or any other aspect of the University of Warwick, please call **024 7615 0708** or email community@warwick.ac.uk. To find out more about our activities visit warwick.ac.uk/community

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TAKING THE FIRST STEP

We are leading a new project to help unemployed people with long-term pain conditions back into work.

The Return to Work with Individualised Supported Employment (RISE) programme provides six-week work placements, which are tailored to each individual's illness.

Estates assistants, finance administrators, receptionists and nursing assistant positions are among the placements offered by Coventry City Council, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and Serco to those who can travel to Coventry or Birmingham.

The scheme is part of a study, which is funded by Arthritis Research UK and led by Dr Robert Froud, who is principal research fellow at the Clinical Trials Unit at our Medical School.

Dr Froud said: "We know that working is generally good for us, and that the right job can actually help with painful conditions.

"Many painful ailments such as back pain, arthritis or headaches stop a lot of people from working.

"However, we know that there are approaches that can be used to help people in pain to work normally and that this can have health benefits."

Although the placements are unpaid, travel costs will be covered.

Each person will be supported by a case manager, who will work with them to find out why work may be difficult and how to tackle those obstacles.

The hours and days of each placement will be flexible and will last for up to 16 hours a week.

If you would like to be considered for the study, contact the RISE team by calling **02476 151 622** or emailing RISE@warwick.ac.uk

Find out more about the project at warwick.ac.uk/rise/public

JON'S CAREER IS NOW ON A DIFFERENT PATH

A former retail and sales worker whose career was given a new direction thanks to our 2+2 Degree Pathway presented his dissertation to education leaders at a national conference.

Jon Winfield, who lives in Hinckley, joined us at the Centre for Lifelong Learning in 2014 to study Social Research after more than 30 years away from the education system.

Jon's dissertation asked 'What are the barriers mature students face when accessing HE?' and he was asked to present his work at the British Conference of Undergraduate Research in Sheffield last month after submitting an outline of his work to organisers.

His research looks at issues around access, participation, retention and progression of students from 'non-traditional' backgrounds in universities. After reaching the end of his 2+2 Degree Pathway studies and getting the chance to share his work on a wider stage, Jon now hopes to apply for a Master's degree at Warwick in 2019.

He said: "To critically think about inequalities in higher education opportunities made me angry.

"I questioned why it seems to be expected we go to university at 18 when for so many people it is not the

right time. So, I wanted to look at what stopped people going later in life.

"When I started I would have been happy with a degree. I suppose my aspirations were a 2:2 and if the wind was behind me and I excelled a 2:1 although I didn't really think that was possible.

"I hadn't thought about careers at that point. I suppose another goal that I hadn't really verbalised was to help me get my life back on an even footing and that I think I have definitely achieved.

"I am a different person now than I was five years ago and I hope I am better for it."

Our Warwick Gateway to HE: Social Studies is the perfect way to get back into study both to see if you enjoy the subject and the academic study, and to see how it fits in with other commitments you may have such as work and family.

Our next Gateway course starts in November, visit warwick.ac.uk/dl for more information.

BREWERY SAYS "CHEERS" TO WMG!

A small brewing company making a big splash in the beer market turned to WMG at the University of Warwick for help in meeting customer demand.

Purity Brewing Ltd is a brewer based on a farm between Studley and Great Alne not far from Stratford-upon-Avon.

With sales booming, bosses found they were constantly balancing the production of their beers with meeting their growing customer demand.

The company turned to the SME team at WMG to help develop data systems to manage this complex operation while they get on with brewing the beer.

Andrew Thurston, Finance Director at Purity Brewing, said: "The WMG SME Group quickly identified our technical and business challenges.



"The new production tool will save us money and support Purity with its rapid growth."

The new automated data transfer system will save Purity one day of effort per fortnight, freeing them up to brew more beer.

The improved forecasting system will also reduce the risk of incorrect deliveries and give more time to deliver continued quality to their consumer base, while the database created for them can be integrated directly with their IT and office systems.

If you're an SME looking for help with your next project visit warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/wmg/business/smesupport/