

# CommUnity

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



## VERY LIGHT RAIL TECHNOLOGY FOR COVENTRY

We're working with Coventry City Council to better connect Coventry in an environmentally friendly and cost effective way using very light rail or 'VLR'.

We recently welcomed Councillors Jim O'Boyle and David Welsh from the City Council to campus to show them our early vehicle concept designs.

Our researchers at WMG are working to develop a new kind of lightweight, battery-operated driverless rail vehicle, and colleagues in the School of Engineering are working with them to produce an equally novel track system which is also cost effective and easy to embed in local roads.

We're hoping that the first demonstrator vehicles will be ready to test by Spring 2019.

This new technology will be cheaper, quieter and more environmentally friendly than anything currently available. The estimated £6m project is being funded by the Government's Local Growth Fund through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership and West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Deal (which is subject to approval of the business case).



## REDEVELOPING WARWICK ARTS CENTRE FOR THE FUTURE

Warwick Arts Centre has begun the first stage of its 20:20 Capital Project to update the existing 1974 building and create a new cultural and creative venue for the region with a modern, updated, larger space.

Building work to the older part of the venue began in October, with temporary closure to the theatre and studio spaces as well as Le Gusta restaurant. At the same time, Warwick Arts Centre opened its 280 seater temporary theatre - The Goose Nest - which will, over the next 9 months, host a variety of professional and student shows. Warwick Arts Centre will also continue to provide audiences with a full programme of events and shows taking place within the venue itself throughout the three year project.

The second stage of the redevelopment is scheduled to begin in October 2018 with a brand new venue frontage and extension, which will house three HD digital auditoria, a large ground floor gallery ready to exhibit some of the very best contemporary art, sculpture and photography and a spacious new-look foyer offering a welcoming environment. The plans include open spaces for eating, drinking and socialising, and the foyer will be designed to showcase the very best in art and entertainment.

Whilst some venues will be temporarily closed at certain times over the next three

years, the signature Butterworth Hall and the Helen Martin Studio will be open throughout, and all spaces within the building will be used in a number of new and innovative ways.

Andrea Pulford, Director of Planning and Operations said: "The Warwick Arts Centre 20:20 project has begun in earnest this Autumn - it's no mean feat starting a packed new season of shows, closing parts of the building for renovation and opening a temporary theatre! The finished venue will benefit not only our local communities, students, teaching and support staff, but will enable Warwick Arts Centre to become a major cultural provider in the region and to make a positive impact on the UK arts industry as a whole."

Full plans and a timeline of activity are available on the Warwick Arts Centre website [www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/2020-project](http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/2020-project).

Visitors, audiences and the local community are welcome to feedback on [warwick2020@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:warwick2020@warwick.ac.uk).

FREE  
EVENT

## CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE IDEAS CAFÉ

Tuesday 30 January 2018, 6pm

We're planning our first cancer research Ideas Café in January and we would love you to join us!

Come along and hear short introductions from cancer researchers about their work in an informal café-style setting; then ask questions and input your thoughts to help impact their research.

Register at [warwick.ac.uk/canceropenevening](http://warwick.ac.uk/canceropenevening) for free parking, free refreshments, and a chance to really chat about cancer research.



## ANALYSING OVARIAN CANCER CELLS

Thanks to donations from the Lord Mayor of Coventry's year in office and the General Charities of the City of Coventry, we're teaming up with the University of Birmingham to examine ovarian cancer cells in a new way.

We'll be collecting and processing new samples taken during surgery, and looking at the individual cells within them. We'll isolate them into droplets and use barcodes to label the cells, then apply high-throughput sequencing to get a detailed insight into their composition, finding the number of healthy and cancerous cells.

One of our new PhD students, Annika Stechemesser, will analyse the data to improve our ability to characterise individual cells, and improve personalised and targeted treatments for ovarian as well as other cancers.

All of this will help us treat ovarian cancer more effectively in future and we're incredibly grateful for the support that's made it possible.

We hold regular open evenings and you can register your interest to hear about the next open evening at [warwick.ac.uk/canceropenevening](http://warwick.ac.uk/canceropenevening).



## HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

### Do you run a local group?

Help us tell more people about what we do - schedule a cancer research speaker at one of your upcoming events today.

Email [benefactors@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:benefactors@warwick.ac.uk) or call 024 7615 0060.



## WHEN CHEYLESMORE GOOD NEIGHBOURS BECOME GOOD FRIENDS

In summer 2016, Cheylesmore Good Neighbours got in touch with us to recruit student volunteers to help local residents use IT devices.

The scheme encourages older and isolated members of the Cheylesmore community to gather together for talks, sing-a-longs, cups of tea and general socialising.

After a successful four-week pilot course with three Warwick postgraduate students during the summer break, the project expanded to run more courses

in term time. Examples of the support provided include downloading podcasts of a radio show, fixing a macro, setting up a printer or checking cricket scores. Members can bring their own devices, or use one lent by the organisation.

We gave a Warwick Volunteers Award to Josh Rawcliffe, a student of the Lloyds Scholar programme, to recognise his contribution as project leader both in recruiting volunteers and growing the project.

Yvonne Robinson, from Cheylesmore Good Neighbours said "We would like to put on record how impressed we have been with the quality, commitment and enthusiasm of all the students. We know that our older members, who were the beneficiaries of the students' efforts, were equally impressed. Your students have left an extremely positive reflection of the University."

Find out more about how Warwick Volunteers could help your school or organisation at [warwick.ac.uk/community/volunteers/community](http://warwick.ac.uk/community/volunteers/community).



## ONECOV2017 A SUCCESS

Partnership for Coventry's event, **OneCov2017**, took place on **Saturday 7 October at Coventry Transport Museum**.

The event invited people from communities across the city to come together to listen to and learn from each other's experience of living in our city of many cultures – and to talk about ideas for how to live and work better together for the city.

Guests discussed their concerns for the city, shared many examples of effective ways in which Coventry people make our diverse city work well, and talked about possible ways to increase cross-community understanding in future.

OneCov2017 was organised in partnership with Coventry City Council and was planned and facilitated by a group of 27 community facilitators from a wide range of ages, backgrounds and communities.

Over 120 people took part in the event which was attended by many individual Coventry residents, as well as Local Councillors, social groups and organisations including Coventry University, the Highlife Centre, Coventry Older Voices and many more.

Deputy leader and Cabinet member for Policing and Equalities, Cllr Abdul Khan, said: "It was fantastic to see so much diversity and working together. One Cov was a huge success in bringing people together.

"All the comments made at the event will be analysed and provide a better understanding of what communities can do to strengthen community cohesion and the social fabric which holds Coventry together. This will begin a discussion across the partnership about how it can pull together to support communities to achieve that aim."

Mark Hinton, Community Engagement Development Manager at the University of Warwick, who facilitated the event, said: "I am so pleased with the engagement of such a broad cross-section of Coventry people in OneCov2017. The event built on the work of the many organisations and individuals who for decades have kept Coventry working as well as it does as a multi-cultural city.

"We made space for people to talk honestly about their concerns and worries about community relations in the city – and to listen to others, including in some uncomfortable, but productive conversations. We hope that many of the organisations and individuals involved will continue similar work to bring people together and make sure we tackle the difficult topics while celebrating what we have learnt from many years of living and working together in this great, diverse city."



## NEW DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS STARTING IN 2018

Degree apprenticeships are a novel education route combining the best aspects of higher and vocational training, enabling students to study for a degree whilst being employed and earning a wage throughout.

Co-designed by employers and higher education institutions, degree apprenticeships ensure students graduate with the right mix of academic knowledge and professional skills that will enable them to thrive in the working world for the future.

We're delighted that we've been awarded around a quarter of a million pounds from the new Higher Education Funding Council for England administered Degree Apprenticeships Development Fund which we will use to create around 100 new degree apprenticeships each year.

The first 80 degree apprenticeships (in Civil Engineering and Social Work) will start

in 2018, with a further 100 new degree apprenticeships starting in 2019 and 120 in 2020. This will be in addition to around 400 apprentices in manufacturing engineering degree programmes that are already studying and working with WMG here. We're also exploring whether we can create even more degree apprenticeship programmes and have four technology-based areas under active consideration.

**University of Warwick Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart Croft said:**

"The UK has the second lowest productivity of all the G7 countries and skills gaps are seen as one of the major contributors to this issue. Universities such as Warwick have a long history of direct engagement in both their local and national economies. We are delighted once again to be at the forefront of a programme that will deliver new opportunities for our young people which will also target local skills gaps, and will help drive economic growth in our region and the country as a whole."

## FREEFLOW FESTIVAL OF THE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD

To celebrate our partnership with The Sunday Times/Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award, we couldn't resist the temptation to create a day of events and workshops here on campus, exploring a mini kaleidoscope of written and spoken word (or at least as much as we could fit into a day).

This is an opportunity to bring together inspirational thinkers, authors, journalists and performers to share what's fresh, controversial and relevant today. There'll

be debates, presentations and workshops looking at writing in its many forms. Our aim is to explore and provoke: in short, to celebrate the vibrancy of language.

Join us for a fun, varied and stimulating day on Wednesday 29 November.

**All events are FREE but booking is required.**

Find out more at [warwick.ac.uk/youngwriteraward/freeflowfestival](http://warwick.ac.uk/youngwriteraward/freeflowfestival)



## NEW OUTDOOR ACTIVITY ZONE

**Take your next workout outside.**

You'll find the Activity Zone behind the Claycroft halls of residences. It's in a tranquil and natural setting away from the distraction and buzz of central campus. With free access, anyone can make use of the space for social and competitive sporting activity. You'll find handy boards on the equipment explaining what you can do.

Equipment includes a half basketball court, two in-ground trampolines, a functional rig, swings, a yoga and mindfulness area, a 20m sprint area, energy bikes, a cross trainer and cardio arms.

Find out more at [warwick.ac.uk/services/sport/about/facilities/activity-zone](http://warwick.ac.uk/services/sport/about/facilities/activity-zone)



## WILDCATS FOOTBALL PROGRAMME FOR GIRLS 5 - 11

FA Wildcats Football Clubs are a new opportunity for girls to play football in a safe and fun environment with FA-qualified coaches.

- Suitable if you've never played before, only kicked a ball in school or already in a club but want to play more.
- Come along and have fun, make friends and develop a life-long love of sport.
- Your first session is free, after which the sessions will cost just £2 each.
- Sessions take place on Sunday mornings, 9:30am - 11am, on the 3G Tarkett Pitch at the University of Warwick campus.

Find out more at [warwick.ac.uk/services/sport/active/activities/football/wildcats](http://warwick.ac.uk/services/sport/active/activities/football/wildcats).



## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES AT WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

Every weekend in December Warwick Arts Centre will be hosting a range of activities for all the family. Take a look at a **microscopic Bear Hunt** with help from our Life Sciences team and take part in some creative stay and play activities based around **Snow Mouse**.

Not only that but Warwick Arts Centre and the University of Warwick Life Sciences Team will help you hunt bears on the University campus! Families will be guided around Tocil Woods hunting for clues in this hour long tour. Bring your wellies and coat.

Whether you are coming to one of our Christmas shows or just looking for something to do on a December weekend you are welcome to join us.

Find out more at [warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk)

## HELP TO WRITE A PLAY AT WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

Steph Ridings, a local writer and playwright, is developing a new show with us here at Warwick Arts Centre called The Fear of Fear. As part of the writing process she is participating in activities that scare her such as potholing but another significant element of the project is working alongside various groups in the community to explore fear.

You are invited to be part of this process. Steph will run three two-hour long creative writing workshops on: 7 Nov, 21 Nov & 11 December.

This will build material to support Steph's writing and show development in early January.

You are then invited to the first ever version of Steph's show at 4pm on Friday 12 January.

The final workshop will be held on Tuesday 16 January.

The workshops will take place between 7pm and 9pm meeting at Warwick Arts Centre.

**These workshops are all FREE.** Please contact [l.cullen@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:l.cullen@warwick.ac.uk) to book your place or to find out more.

**All are welcome but there will be limited spaces so please book in advance.**

## KEY DATES

### Market Days at the Piazza 2017-2018

11am-3pm: 29 Nov, 24 Jan, 14 Feb, 7 Mar, 25 Apr, 9 May, 23 May, 6 Jun, 20 Jun

### Degree Congregation Ceremonies

11am and 3pm each day:  
Weds 17 - Fri 19 Jan

### Autumn Term:

Mon 2 Oct 2017 - Sat 9 Dec 2017

### Spring Term:

Mon 8 Jan 2018 - Sat 17 Mar 2018

### Summer Term:

Mon 23 Apr 2018 - Sat 30 Jun 2018

## 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](mailto:community@warwick.ac.uk). To find out more about our activities visit [warwick.ac.uk/community](http://warwick.ac.uk/community).

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