More than 16,000 people took part in the week-long British Science Festival in September, which took place across Coventry and Warwickshire. The University hosted the event, including talks, debates, discussions and activities across campus and in Coventry city centre.

Evening events included a secret garden of science at The Botanist, Sci-Fi productions in the Albany Theatre, the Bootstrap Cook at Coventry Cathedral, and a holographic dance party in FarGo Village. There was also a special live recording of the BBC’s The Sky at Night at Warwick Arts Centre, and sports science events at our new Sports and Wellness Hub.

‘Cook together, Eat together’ – a free cooking club for over 55s in Coventry - was a feature of the week, focusing on healthy eating skills while tackling the growing problem of social isolation. Local organisations also ran their own events, thanks to Community Grants they’d been awarded jointly by the University of Warwick and the British Science Association (which organises the festival). Grant winners included Vanny Radio, Ayriss Recovery Service, West Indian Heritage Community Action group, ILEAP, The Smallpiece Trust, Coventry Men’s Shed, BLAST Fest, and Food Union. They ran events on topics including science, media coverage, drug and alcohol abuse education, climate change, mental health and ecology.

Students from 12 local schools attended the festival. They had the chance to meet local employers and took part in employability skills workshops before exploring the festival.

We would like to thank to our principal partners Cadent, Jaguar Land Rover and Lubrizol for making it such a memorable week.

“It was fantastic to see so many of you joining us on campus and at nearby events. We are excited to see many more of you as we look forward to Coventry 2021!”

Jane Furze, Director of Regional Strategy and Public Engagement

FAMILY DAY AND CHALLENGE+

Our science-themed Family Day attracted more than 8,000 people to campus on Saturday 14 September. Visitors explored, discovered and experimented their way through the day. Highlights included Maddie Moate’s Mission to Mars, The Space Shed and experience zones from Family Day sponsor Jaguar Land Rover.

For older children (aged 11 to 16) we hosted an evening event called ‘Challenge+’ that was curated by students from Finham Park 2 school. There was lots to see and do with liquid nitrogen ice cream, drone racing, e-sports and pyrotechnics.

DON’T MISS THE NEXT FAMILY DAY!
Sunday 1 December 10am-5pm
Step into a Winter Wonderland at our very special Family Day this December. It’s for all families and children from ages one to 16, with storytelling, interactive performances, craft making, an Asian Drumming workshop, gingerbread decorating, face-painting and henna tattoos – plus the opportunity to learn about the science of winter!

WE’D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter, or any suggestions about how we could improve it please call 024 7615 0708 or email community@warwick.ac.uk

To find out more about our activities visit warwick.ac.uk/community

IF YOU’D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT SIMILAR EVENTS, GET IN TOUCH!
Register your interest at public-engagement@warwick.ac.uk
HELPING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ACHIEVE FITNESS GOALS

Our Sports and Wellness Hub has been helping members of the local community to achieve their fitness goals since opening in April.

Whether you’re looking to improve your health and wellbeing, learn a new skill, meet new friends or keep the entire family active, the Sports and Wellness Hub offers something for everyone.

Visit [warwick.ac.uk/sport](http://warwick.ac.uk/sport) to discover how other members of the community are using the Sports and Wellness Hub to achieve their personal goals.

“I joined the gym and I’d never used a gym before. And I’m 72.” Tom

“Work can be quite intense and I find exercise quite relaxing and therapeutic.” Sajid

“It’s just been brilliant coming as a family. It’s good for all ages.” Debbie

MEET THE NEW COVENTRY HOUSING OFFICER

After a successful pilot last year, we’ve extended our partnership with Coventry City Council to support a Housing Enforcement Officer, focusing on student housing in the Canley and Cannon Park areas. New to the post is Claire Taylor, interviewed here.

“There’s no such thing as a typical day, but in brief, my role involves... Dealing with problems from the private rented sector. In a typical day I could be investigating evictions, inspecting properties in disrepair, or dealing with neighbour disputes. I’m also involved in the licensing and regulation of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) which is where you find much of the student population.

How does your role support – and challenge – landlords?
I advise landlords on issues relating to their properties so that students have a better rental experience. I also encourage them to become accredited with a recognised scheme. We’re currently running our own landlord accreditation scheme and prospective tenants are able to search the list of our accredited landlords on our webpages. Where landlords continue to flout the laws, I’ll aim to tackle the issue by interviewing landlords or managing agents under caution, which on occasion may result in a court case or the issuing of Civil Penalties up to £30,000.

How are you working with the local community?
I’ll be meeting regularly with the Cannon Park Community Association and the Canley Stakeholders Group. I’ll work closely with both to establish their main areas of concern. I intend to build on the previous year’s work on ‘hot streets’ and I’ll be focusing my proactive inspections within these particular areas. I’ll be a single point of contact for them to report issues directly to me. To date the feedback my predecessor received has been good – residents’ groups are pleased to have their issues responded to quickly and without having to go through the council’s reporting system.

What’s the impact of your work for student tenants?
A major part of my work involves proactively inspecting many of the HMOs in Canley and Cannon Park. This ensures that students are living in safe, clean, well-managed accommodation and will enable them to focus their attention on their studies rather than worrying about housing issues. I’m also looking forward to being involved in housing ‘clinics’ based at the University which give students a chance to ask questions about their housing concerns on an informal basis, as they may fear retaliation from the landlord if they make a formal complaint.

What would you like to achieve over the next year?
I’d like to build on the good work of my predecessor and improve the standard of the landlords operating in the area and subsequently the standard of accommodation. I hope to help strengthen the relationship between the University and the local community.

WALKING THROUGH TIME – ART AND HISTORY TRAIL ON CAMPUS

FREE event
Until September 2020
Open all day, every day

A new art and history trail ‘Walking Through Time’ is open to explore across our campus. You’ll find new and existing sculptures from our Art Collection, plus discover some fascinating, and at times gruesome, facts about the history of the site.

Don’t miss The Good and The Bad dinosaurs on the trail – two giant corten steel dinosaur sculptures made by the acclaimed British artists, Jake and Dinos Chapman. The dinosaurs resemble huge children’s model-making kits and appear clumsy and lovable!

Details of ‘Walking Through Time’ are provided on a beautifully hand-drawn map by the illustrator Helen Cann, which can be collected from Warwick Arts Centre or downloaded from [warwickartscentre.co.uk/walking-through-time](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk/walking-through-time)

Don’t forget you can also explore our ‘Follow That Hare’ trail, which we mentioned in the last newsletter: [warwickartscentre.co.uk/follow-that-hare](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk/follow-that-hare)
PLANNING FOR REAL IN CANLEY

We’ve been supporting community leaders in Canley to deliver the nationally-recognised ‘Planning for Real’ process.

More than 650 local people of all ages and backgrounds have been sharing their experiences, concerns and ideas about Canley on a 3D map of the area. Created with community members, including local school pupils, the map allows people to easily locate their house and other parts of the neighbourhood, and has been a focus for conversations about life in the local area.

This project builds on recent work done by the local Community Centre, churches, the Canley Pop-Up Café and others. Our Community Engagement Team arranged training for community facilitators, provided resources for making the 3D map and helped run the public events where it’s been displayed. Our students have also been involved in the project.

Since July, residents have placed well over 1,300 comments and suggestions on the map, in a series of public events in many parts of Canley. Ideas and concerns raised cover topics including green spaces, youth services, community safety, traffic speeds, toddler groups and community relations.

In November we’re working with community members to sort through them all, and prioritise those suggestions which a range of community members agree could be acted on to make the biggest difference to the area. By the end of December we hope to have completed a draft action plan for Canley, created by and for the community in partnership with agencies and organisations who may be able to help with some of the actions.

The action plan will be available in Canley library and at other community organisations, through facebook.com/PfRCanley, or by emailing PfRCanley@warwick.ac.uk.

“This events have been such a great success, getting people from all backgrounds together to discuss the current positives and negatives in Canley. It is great to see the local people and the University working together.”

Anna-Marie Corbett, Manager of Canley Community Centre

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE AT CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, Warwick Arts Centre’s exciting programme continues.

The highlight will undoubtedly be Raymond Briggs’ Father Christmas.

Our portly, slightly grumpy friend will be preparing deliveries, feeding his reindeer and getting ready for his big night from Wednesday 27 November to Sunday 29 December. Suitable for all ages 3+.

Other Christmas treats include Snow Ride! A Christmas Family Concert (Saturday 7 December 7.30pm). All those famous classical festive tunes – from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Overture to Leroy Anderson’s Sleigh Ride and Rimsky Korsakov’s Dance of Tumblers – will put you in the festive spirit.

Ronnie Spector & the Ronettes will be visiting for a special Christmas show (Tuesday 17 December 7.30pm). Pop’s ultimate ‘girl-group’ will play all the hits, including Be My Baby and Do I Love You, recreating Ronnie’s New York Christmases from the golden era.

The Spring Season will also be on sale from early December – keep an eye out for updates at warwickartscentre.co.uk.

JOIN US FOR CANLEY CHIT CHAT

Join us at the next Canley Chit Chat, which connects older and younger generations, helping to ease loneliness and isolation.

You can enjoy free tea, coffee, cake and board games, as well as friendly conversations and companionship. Students from Warwick Volunteers will be joining in too. Everyone is welcome to the group, so come along, meet friends and even make new ones!

**Next session:**

**Tuesday 3 December**

10.30am-12.00pm

Canley Community Centre
THE PIAZZA BIG SCREEN

The exciting Piazza Big Screen sporting and cultural screenings continue throughout Autumn 2019 and into 2020, including live streaming from the Royal Opera House.

The Piazza is a space for the both our campus community and the wider local community to enjoy a variety of national and international sporting and cultural events, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

WHAT’S NEXT:

Christmas Market and the Muppet Christmas Carol
27 November 12.00-7.00pm
Join us for a Christmas market in the heart of the campus. Come along and enjoy a Christmas treat, join in with the carols and stay for the Christmas film showing at 5.30pm – The Muppet Christmas Carol. Wrap up warm and come enjoy some holiday fun!

Rugby Six Nations Super Saturday
14 March
The 2020 Six Nations Championship concludes on “Super Saturday” with three back-to-back matches. We’ll be screening all three! First kick-off 2.15pm.

SCIENCE ON THE HILL

Your chance to come and find out more about the exciting research happening at the School of Life Sciences and Warwick Medical School on Gibbet Hill.

'Science on the Hill' is a new exciting programme of public engagement events hosted by the School of Life Sciences and Warwick Medical School.

These interactive two hour events are your window into the new research taking place at Gibbet Hill that will help not only the local community but also people nationally and internationally.

Science on the Hill events are free to attend, taking place between 6-8pm on Tuesday evenings in the School of Life Sciences atrium.

Register online at warwick.ac.uk/scienceonthehill

Comments welcome
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