



**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Connecting us with our neighbours in the region

# CommUnity

Winter 2016



## OPERA WARWICK LAUNCH FREE WEEKLY CLASSES IN LEAMINGTON

Opera Warwick, a student society at the University, is running free weekly classes in Leamington Spa for those over the age of 18 suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's and other mental health issues.

Open Access Opera encourages members of the local community to find ways they can express or enjoy themselves and socialise through the art form of Opera.

The workshops which are being held at the Sydni Centre in Sydenham, have been funded on a six week trial basis by an Arts Development Grant from Warwick District Council. Sessions started on Friday 21 October and take place from 7pm to 9pm.

Warwick University student and Leamington resident Nic Miller hopes the two hour workshops will help improve well-being and encourage some of the most vulnerable members of society to socialise.

Nic and musical partner Jessi Parrott - both students at Warwick who run the sessions - say people with mental health issues should feel like they are in a 'safe space' where they can relax and enjoy learning a new art.

Visit [operawarwick.co.uk/open-access-opera](http://operawarwick.co.uk/open-access-opera) for further details.

## ARE YOU BACKING THE BID?

Coventry is bidding to be UK City of Culture 2021, a title that could change the face of our city forever.



- ▶ Winning UK City of Culture will provide a real step change and legacy for the city and could bring upwards of £80 million economic impact in the year.
- ▶ The city is very much behind the bid with Coventry City Council, the two universities, local businesses and the cultural sector all backing the bid.
- ▶ Coventry is well situated to attract visitors from across the UK, 20 million people are within two hours from the city.
- ▶ Coventry has a rich heritage and a bright future with strong cultural assets including Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry Cathedral, Herbert Art Gallery, the Belgrade Theatre and Independent Arts Organisations.
- ▶ The time is right for Coventry and we have the people in place to make this happen.

Both Warwick and Coventry universities are principal partners in the bid and supporting the Coventry 2021 bid team. We're leading on research to enable a robust, thorough programme to inform the bid and maximise value and impact. The bid is about celebrating Coventry's diversity, and the research of both universities is aimed at improving the cultural and economic life of the city.

A recent survey shows that 81% of Coventry is in support of the bid. In order to be successful we need your help!

There will be lots of ways for you to get involved either through sharing programme ideas, volunteering at events or helping to spread the word.

To be among the first to find out about these exciting opportunities sign up to our newsletter at [coventry2021.co.uk](http://coventry2021.co.uk)



## OUR ARTFUL OCULUS

A multi-million pound brand new teaching and learning facility at the University of Warwick has opened. The £19m flagship Teaching and Learning Building includes two large lecture theatres and 14 top quality flexible teaching spaces. In addition to the latest technology to assist with teaching the building boasts a state of the art four-screen video wall in the central atrium.

Next to the Students' Union, in a key position on central campus, the spectacular glass and timber roof sets the standard for excellent building design for future campus developments. The building was designed by Berman Guedes Stretton, who have received many architectural awards for their higher education projects, who worked with project planners Pick Everard and contractors Willmott Dixon to deliver the stunning landmark building.

The video wall in the central atrium will host a range of art displays, timetables of upcoming activity in the building and live-streams of lectures and other events in the main lecture theatres. There are high-tech features elsewhere in the building, with electronic screens outside each room showing availability and interactive digital boards to help with wayfinding.

Mary Courtney, Leverhulme Trust Artist in Residence with the Chemistry Department, alumna, and local Earlsdon resident, has been working closely with Professor Patrick Unwin from the Warwick Chemistry department and other chemists to collate and create chemistry-art or 'chem-art'. The art features corroding metals, prescription drugs and brain scans at a microscopic level to present research in a way that is both visually appealing and thought-provoking and brings the often unseen beauty of the microscopic world to life.

The Oculus also includes an exhibition of works from the University of Warwick Art Collection, carefully selected as a particular response to this building, to enhance the multi-disciplinary environment and to act as informal provocations for ideas. Works include a print of a David Hockney iPad drawing, a map of Old Milverton by Leamington-based artist Simon Lewty and a striking suspended sculpture by Eva Rothschild.

Why not pop in and enjoy a hot drink in our new café whilst appreciating the exciting digital and physical art?



Former Mayor of Kenilworth Michael Coker and his wife Janice present a cheque for £3,000 to the Dean of Warwick Medical School Sudhesh Kumar to help with diabetes research.

## MAYOR SUPPORTS OUR DIABETES RESEARCH

Councillor Michael Coker has chosen to make a donation of £3,000 to the University of Warwick's Diabetes research groups and a similar amount of £3,000 to South Warwickshire Diabetes UK from his charitable fund. The money has been raised over the last year through local events including a golf day at Kenilworth Golf Club.

Cllr Coker said "It is a pleasure to hand over the money to such a worthy cause. The diabetes research conducted by the University of Warwick is an example of some of the good work conducted at the University's Medical School."

Professor Kumar said "We are delighted to receive recognition from Councillor Coker. We will be adding some funds to the donation to allow us to purchase specialist equipment called GeneGnome which will be used in our research. The Midlands has the highest rates of type 2 diabetes in Europe and this generous gift will help us continue our work.

"Warwick Medical School undertakes research into diabetes and a number of trials into the disease take place through hospitals in our region, and so this funding will really make a difference to our local community."



## STUDENTS GRAPPLE WITH CANAL CLEAN UP

Our student volunteers joined volunteers from Tesco and local residents to take part in the autumn canal clean up in Leamington Spa on Sunday 23 October.

Amongst the many items 'un-canalised' with the aid of a grappling hook were a Vespa Scooter, a gym bench, a lawnmower, an empty fish tank, a garage door, several large oil drums, a mattress, a sewing machine, shopping trolleys, bicycles,

road work signs and assorted tyres.

They also filled several plastic sacks with litter from the towpath.

The clean ups are organised by the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) twice a year.

Find out more about how our volunteers could help your organisation at [warwick.ac.uk/volunteers](http://warwick.ac.uk/volunteers)

# GRAND MASTER WOWS LOCAL YOUNG CHESS PLAYERS

The Coventry Chess Academy (CCA) is one of the most successful chess clubs for children in the Midlands. It was founded in 2013 through a Social Enterprise Award from the University of Warwick by Paul Lam, a member of University staff in the Postgraduate Admissions Service. On Wednesday 26 October 2016, the CCA and University were privileged to play host to a very special guest, Grandmaster Anish Giri.

Anish Giri is a chess prodigy who became a grandmaster at the age of only fourteen years. He is the current world number 14 and has been as high as number 4 - one of the few players in the world who holds an equal record against the current World Chess Champion and strongest player of all time, Magnus Carlsen.

To meet and play against a grandmaster is a special occasion for any child who loves chess. To do so against a global chess superstar like Anish Giri is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The display lasted for a good hour; tribute to the tremendous efforts of CCA members. Ultimately, the might of the Grandmaster prevailed, but not before facing some serious resistance against young David Phillips, one of the Academy's rising stars who forced Anish to pause for a significant think on several occasions. Ultimately, the game was the last to finish and resulted in a draw; a wonderful moment for David that he will remember for years to come.

It was an incredible experience for the star-struck CCA members. They demonstrated determination, skills, enthusiasm and superb conduct, making a big impression on their guests. There were more treats in store for them afterwards. Anish signed chess books provided by Optiver for the children and had photos taken with them. A reciprocal presentation of gifts



was then made by the CCA to Anish and his manager and sponsor accompanied by an expression of thanks, bringing a memorable event to a close.

The Coventry Chess Academy helps children to develop skills which will empower them in and outside the classroom. Over 200 children have passed through the CCA's doors; complete beginners have learned how to play chess; novices have been transformed into tournament winners; and some CCA members rank among the best chess players in their national age groups. Children have grown in confidence, made friends and developed a wide range of skills while having great fun.

Find out more at [coventrychessacademy.wordpress.com](http://coventrychessacademy.wordpress.com)

## AWARD-WINNING VOLUNTEERING

Two students recently graduated from Warwick were recognised for their volunteering in the local community at an awards ceremony in Draper's Hall, London.

Both have been part of the Lloyds Scholars programme during the entirety of their undergraduate courses, a scheme that provides financial support and work experience within Lloyds Banking Group for students in exchange for 100 hours per year of volunteer work in the local community. Other Scholars graduating from the scheme this year have volunteered in projects ranging from collecting the oral histories of local people for the museum service to becoming sighted guides through Guide Dogs, running a Christmas Fayre for a local community centre to providing online guidance and support for young people in need through a national charity.

Harry Amos was runner up in the Volunteering Award category. Harry has supported the Warwick Bright Stars scheme from its inception and created some of the first modules to be taught by students in local schools to give them a flavour of university life. He has also volunteered in a range of other local community projects including as part of the management committee of Canley Community Centre, working in a local Food Bank and Kidz Klub which takes local primary school children on holiday. His award was presented in person by António Horta Osório, CEO of Lloyds Banking Group.

Hashim Iqbal was runner up in the Scholars Champion Award, recognising the work he's done in a range of volunteering roles



António Horta Osório, CEO of Lloyds Banking Group, and Harry Amos

such as being a Coventry Ambassador, assisting at a residential GCSE tutoring week for schoolchildren and at Kenilworth Phab club which provides social activities for disabled and non-disabled adults. His award was in recognition of his role in assisting the charity Envision's financial security by working with his contacts in Lloyds to gain additional sponsorship. Hashim has become so dedicated to volunteering that he was unable to collect his award in person as he is currently volunteering for three months in Burkina Faso.

Hannah Hodgson, Lloyds Scholars Community Engagement Officer said

"We're so very proud of all our Scholars; their work in the local community is fantastic and the dedication that they show is a credit to them and their families. That Harry and Hashim have been recognised in this way is the icing on the cake."

For more information about the Lloyds Scholars scheme at Warwick, please contact Hannah Hodgson: [hannah.hodgson@volunteers.warwick.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.hodgson@volunteers.warwick.ac.uk)

In 2015/16, with over 2,500 members, Warwick Volunteers worked in 46 schools and contributed 10,375 hours of volunteering through projects across Coventry, Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick.



## YOUR CHANCE TO EXPLORE SCIENCE LABS AT WARWICK

Our School of Life Sciences are running open events allowing people of all ages to come along and find out how the natural world works.

After two very well attended open evenings this autumn term, the next two scheduled topics are:

6-8pm, Tuesday 7 February 2017: Food Security - keeping plant pathogens at bay  
6-8pm, Tuesday 18 April 2017: The Microbiome

Events are free but do please book in advance to secure a place - check back nearer the date at [warwick.ac.uk/lifesciences](http://warwick.ac.uk/lifesciences) to book your place.

## CHRISTMAS LECTURES FOR AGES 8-80+

28 NOV, 30 NOV, 2 DEC, 5 DEC, 7 DEC & 9 DEC

Six lectures full of brilliant new ideas, explosions, experiments and answers to the questions taxing the University of Warwick's finest minds.

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

### KEY DATES

#### Market Days at the Piazza 2016-2017

10am-3pm: 30 November, 25 January, 15 February, 15 March, 26 April, 11 May, 25 May, 7 June, 21 June

#### Degree Congregation Ceremonies

11am and 3pm each day:  
Weds 18 - Fri 20 January

#### TEDx Warwick

4 March 2017 [tedxwarwick.com](http://tedxwarwick.com)

#### Autumn Term

Mon 3 October 2016 - Sat 10 December 2016

#### Spring Term

Mon 9 January 2017 - Sat 18 March 2017

#### Summer Term

Mon 24 April 2017 - Sat 1 July 2017



## GALLERY URGES US TO DITCH THE SELFIES AND CAPTURE THE WORLD AROUND OURSELVES

The Mead Gallery at the Warwick Arts Centre is urging people to ditch the selfies and instead capture the world around them, as it launches a new exhibition.

The Human Document - The Photography of Persuasion from 1930s America to Present Day exhibition is on until 10th December and features photography showing life in 1930s America through to the present day across the world. As part of this, the gallery has unveiled a website, [YourHumanDocument.com](http://YourHumanDocument.com), for people who are inspired by the exhibition images to get involved, by turning the camera outwards to capture life around them, rather than creating 'picture perfect, airbrushed selfies'.

The complementary website, [YourHumanDocument.com](http://YourHumanDocument.com), encourages amateur photographers to take the same inspiration from what they see and encounter, capturing a sense of the modern world.

The Mead Gallery curators will choose their three favourite entries and the winners will each be presented with a framed photograph from the exhibition.



## THE WONDERS OF WINTER: FAMILY WEEKEND

SAT 26 & SUN 27 NOV 10AM - 5PM

Join us and celebrate this magical time of year with a dazzling and colourful weekend - as we encourage you to discover The Wonders of Winter.

Draw with light, move with colour and make amazing creations inspired by the coldest of the seasons.

Follow the light trail, stamping your Explorer Passport as you go, and take part in incredible ultraviolet activities.

Passport as you go, and take part in incredible ultraviolet activities.

Enjoy a whole host of creative, sporty, and tasty fun activities throughout the day.

Alongside the Family Weekend events, we have six performances of Stick Man and four performances of The Colour of Me in our theatre, as well as six screenings of The Gruffalo and Gruffalo's Child in our Cinema.

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

## 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 [www.warwick.ac.uk/community](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/community). © 2016 The University of Warwick.

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