Dear Reader

Welcome to the 2015 Coventry Peace Festival Programme. I am very excited about the multi-generational Coventrian and support all of the work that goes on in the city to make Coventry the home of peace and reconciliation. The Peace Festival is especially poignant this year as it is the 75th anniversary of the Blitz. The events of that night in 1940 are embedded in our history and in how the city responded to the bombs and moved onwards to create the city we are today.

I would like to say a big thank you to all who have contributed to this diverse programme – you continue to give your time, energy and enthusiasm and this is greatly appreciated. I will do my best to attend some of the events myself. Please take the time to get to at least one event in the programme if you can.

Best wishes
Councillor Michael Hammon
Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry

Festival events

Sunday 1 November
Peace in Nature, Coombe Country Park, 10.30am to 12.30pm
‘Peace in Nature’ is an outdoor arts and creative-day focused on nature-based activities that connect people with the peace that they can find in nature. The day will consist of a peaceful walk where we can focus on finding reflective symbols that inspire peace and create a collaborative natural art that is built as a group.
Contact: 024 7692 0025.

Sunday 1 November
Stories of Inner and Outer Peace, Coombe Country Park, 1.30pm to 3pm
The ‘Peace Tree’ focuses on promoting inner peace that extends to peaceful co-existence within a community. Using arts and crafts, the concepts of peace will be discussed and worked on, creating artwork that reflects on peace globally and locally in Coventry. The activities will be suitable for different levels of ability. Contact: 024 7692 0025.

Sunday 1 November
Arintothearth presents a film: Concert for The Children of Gaza, Hub Cinema Coventry University Student Union, Coventry, CV1 5LW, 3pm
Film of a concert held in Coventry Cathedral on 1 November 2014 to raise awareness of the work of the Palestine Trauma Centre in Gaza. Featuring music, poetry and the spoken word from Coventry and Gaza.
Contact: kris@artinthearth.co.uk 07711 795635.

Monday 2 to Friday 6 November
Brunch Time Peace Show, HillzFM Radio, WATCH Centre, 10-12 Victoria Street, Hillfields, Coventry, 11am to 12noon
Get involved in Hillz FM Radio Peace Festival celebrations and take part in our community Brunch Time Show. Broadcast live for one week from Monday – Friday each day. A unique opportunity for organisations to inform listeners of your group or the area around Coventry as part of the Peace Festival.
Contact: 024 7655 0564.

Tuesday 3 – Saturday 7 November
Flare Path, Belgrade Theatre, 7.45pm
A story that combines highly charged drama with a truly authentic taste of the Second World War. Go to www.belgrade.co.uk for more details.

Tuesday 14 November
The Sleeping Place, Shop Front Theatre, City Arcade, CV1 3HW, 1pm to 3pm
The Sleeping Place is a creative research project focusing on the London Road Cemetery in Coventry, Playwright Vanessa Oakes and textile artist Julia O’Connell will spend time collecting stories and memories from families, workers and local archives connected with the cemetery since its opening in 1847. Please drop by to hear their findings and participate in the show. The Sleeping Place is in association with Theatre Absolute.
Contact: info@theatreabsolute.co.uk or call 07799 292597.

Saturday 14 November
Human Chain of Light and Peace, University Square, 3-5pm
Come along and join our VIP guests and remember what happened to Coventry on this night during the Blitz. Stand shoulder to shoulder with the person next to you and create a human chain of light using a torch or your mobile phone. Listen to survivors speak about their experiences and why we need to remember. Listen to choirs and the hear from the person next to you and create a human chain of light using a torch or your mobile phone. Listen to survivors speak about their experiences and why we need to remember. Listen to choirs and the hear from the Bishop of Coventry. Come together as a city of peace and reconciliation.

Saturday 14 November
Mozart: Requiem and Solemn Vespers – Classical Concert, Coventry Cathedral, 7.30pm
Mozart’s Requiem is the main work in our commemorative concert within Coventry’s 2015 Peace Festival. Bombs destroyed Coventry and its Cathedral on 14 November, so staging this concert on the 75th anniversary of the destruction is especially poignant.
Members of the Parliament Choir, the English Symphony Orchestra and soloists will be musical partners for this important occasion.
Tickets £25, £20, £15, students and children half price - £2 off for concessions www.ticketweb.com or 0844 477 1093.

Pre-festival events

Wednesday 28 October
Lord Mayor of the City’s Annual Peace Lecture, St Mary’s Guildhall, Bayley Lane, Coventry, 7pm
Lecture given by Jonathon Porritt, eminent writer, broadcaster and environmental campaigner. Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry, Pru Porretta/Godiva
Thursday 29 October – Sunday 8 November
Coventry Peace Festival
For more information please contact Lee House on 024 7683 2361 or e-mail lee.house@coventry.gov.uk
Check the website for full details of all these events and others that may have been added to the programme.
www.coventry.gov.uk/peace
Wednesday 4 November

Releasing balloons for peace – sending personal messages into the world, Hillfields Community Hub, 6 Paul Stacey House, Hillfields, Coventry, 11am to 12noon

This art based workshop combines discussions about world peace with art activities. Women only - children are welcome. We will start by taking about peace then decorate postcards with personal messages to release into the sky on helium balloons. These messages will be emotive and include quotes of peace. FREE including refreshments. Contact: 024 7663 7693.

Wednesday 4 November

Body Acceptance: working with LBTQI communities, Koco Building, The Arches, Spon End, 6pm to 8pm

A workshop for the impact of body shame and living with stigma gets played out in struggles with eating and body image issues. Troubled eating is more prevalent among the LBTQI community than the general population. This workshop explores issues of weight, self-care and body acceptance specifically relevant to LBTQI communities. Contact: lucy@well-founded.org.uk

Wednesday 4 November

The United Nations at 70: an assessment of the machinery of the UN, how it evolved and where we go from here, 3pm to 4pm, Coventry Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, 7pm to 8pm

Open meeting of the Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation, all welcome. Speaker: Rod Fielding, former Dean of Modern Studies, Trent University, Rod has experience as Vice Chair of the UN, UK and member of the World Federations of UN Associations. Contact: Ruth Longoni, r.longoni@btinternet.com

Thursday 5, 12, 19 and 26 November

“Inner Peace”, WATCH Centre, HillzFM, 10-12 Victoria Street, Hillfields, Coventry, 10am to 12 noon every Monday

Join us and learn to relax, de-stress and build confidence. You will be given tools and skills that can be used in daily living and passed onto friends and family as well as learning some Indian head massage techniques. Contact: 024 7655 5546.

Thursday 5 November

City Arcadia: Table at the Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral, 5pm onward

The iconic Coventry Table. Created by Artspacé’s City Arcadia Curators, Laura Elliott and Michael Mayhew with architect Yoana Krasteva, hosts a communal meal for 32 people in the surroundings of Coventry Cathedral. Eight places for a specifically designed-free meal are open to eight Coventry residents. To enter the draw for a place at the TABLE e-mail curators@coventry-artspace.co.uk or visit www.city-arcadia.co.uk for more information.

Friday 6 November

Releasing balloons for peace – sending personal messages into the world, FWT – A Centre for Women, 70-72 Elmdale Avenue, Foleshill, Coventry, 10.30am to 12 noon

As Wednesday 4 November. Contact: 024 7663 7693.

Saturday 7 November

Superheroes Dream, Coventry Cathedral, 7pm to 11pm

Collective/Pod hosts an evening of music, improvisation, spoken word and installation in Coventry Cathedral, exploring responses to cultural commodification/recovery/peace. Music performance by Svenja & Mayafic with art creation by artist Martin Green.

Contact: collectivepod@collectivepod.com

Sunday 8 November

Service of Remembrance, Coventry Cathedral, 10.30am

Sunday 8 November

Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade, War Memorial Park, 10.45am to 12noon

Join with hundreds of other Coventrians to commemorate the lives of the fallen of the World Wars and other conflicts. Contact: 024 7683 3047.

Sunday 8 November

The Meaning of Peace, Eden Centre, 74 Paynes Lane, Coventry, CV1 5LL, 2pm to 6pm

This is an opportunity for children to write about peace, present it to the audience and learn from it. We will have a Mehndi artist to put Mehndi on hands. Contact: Step to Community Progress. 07861 014452 or 07940 059499.

Sunday 8 November

Communal Grave Service, London Road Cemetery, 3pm

Take the time to remember the civilians who died 75 years ago during the Blitz in Coventry at this annual service. Contact: 024 7683 3047.

CAIF Annual Peace Concert, Polish Centre, 7.15pm

The Nightingales Choir directed by Pat Tickell and the Polish Choir Senia Nomen directed by Joanne Kundra will once again collaborate for this year’s caif concert. Contact: Pattickell@bittlenet.co.uk Cost: FREE.

Sunday 8 November

Performance Poetry Evening at Radio Plus, Hertford Place, 7pm

Issues of peace and reconciliation will be the theme of the evening on Radio Plus. It will be streamed online at www.radioplus.org.uk. This also has an open mic element for local poets.

Contact 024 7771 2400 or tim.coleman@radioplus.org.uk

Friday 13 November

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Friday 13 November

‘Peace and Culture Fashion Show, FWT – A Centre for Women, 70-72 Elmdale Avenue, Foleshill, Coventry, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Women's and men's outfits are inspired by the theme of peace. The show will be held in FWT's Art Space and refreshments will be served. Tickets (£3) via www.womensfashiontrust.org or call 045 680 199 or 07698 356230, birdmail@askingbirds.co.uk.

Friday 13 November

Troubling Stories – and why we need to tell them, Shopfront Theatre, 38 City Arcade (opposite Argos/KEAI) CV1 3HW, Doors 12noon; talk starts 12.30pm. Event Finishes 2.30pm

A panel discussion on how and why film-makers, writers and other creative artists are drawing to real-life events in their work. The event will include the launch of the TwinStory website which tells how Coventry was targeted in Russia (formerly Stalingrad) became the first twin cities, and allows people to contribute messages to a virtual tapestry. See www.twinstory.org. Refreshments/light lunch will be served. Tickets (£3) via www.womensfashiontrust.org or call 045 680 199 or 07698 356230, birdmail@askingbirds.co.uk.

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Friday 13 November

In Memoriam with Coventry Cathedral presents Carmen Funebre and Liberty, University Square, 6.30pm and 9pm

CARMEN FUNEBRE Teatro Biuro Podrozcy return to the city to perform their world famous piece Carmen Funebre (Funeral Song). The performance is based on interviews with refugees and victims of the Balkan wars, displaced people in the world and the words of war poet WH Auden. Duration approximately 50 minutes.

LIBERTY Created with young people working with Imagineer, this powerful and emotive performance was originally produced for the Festival of Imagineers (summer 2015). This is an uncompromising ensemble piece about the human struggle for freedom against powerful oppression and dictatorship. Duration approximately 20 minutes. Library was created with the generous support of Medwell Hyde and funded by Talent Match and BIS.

For further information and booking tickets please visit www.imagineerneproductions.co.uk

Saturday 14 November

Second World War Family Day, The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, 10am to 4pm

Linking to commemorative celebrations across the city, families can take part in a full day of workshops and experiences at both the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum and Coventry Transport Museum which commemorate the anniversary of the Coventry Blitz. There is no need to book, just come and join us. Contact: The Herbert on 024 7623 7521.

Saturday 14 November

Peace Messages from Coventry, Hope Centre, Sparkbrook Street, Hillfields, Coventry CV1 5LB, 12noon to 4pm

Postcard Writing and Storytelling in partnership with the Hillfields Readers Group will be putting on an afternoon of events to support the Festival of Peace. There will be an opening reading by local poet Antony Owen on the theme of peace and reconciliation for the 75th anniversary of the Coventry bombing. Hillfields Readers Group members will be reading their own specially written poems for the event. We will end with a peace storytelling session which will try to combine the spirit of the peace messages written during the day. Contact: ccoles@coho.co.uk