Supporting our City
David Boughey
After supporting recent partnership bids for the city towards hosting UK Transplant Games and City of Culture 2021 EnV were proud to be hosting delegates from the European City of Sport Bid panel recently. Fingers crossed – again!

Partnership Projects
I continue to work with a range of partners on a number of exciting projects including Coventry Young Ambassadors led by a range of Coventry Primary Schools. We will be working on another newsletter edition soon with some exciting news and key updates including this project and other big news – watch this space!

Continued Recognition
After being named Winners of an SME Business Award we were really pleased to have been an Area Finalist at the FSB Business Awards recently, continued recognition for our Social Enterprise and the impact our fantastic volunteers continue to make…did someone say legacy?

Culture Corner!
Shop Front Festival
Diane Jones – Lead Ambassador Coordinator.
The two-day Shop Front Festival began our journey named as City of Culture 2021 and supporting a new event to Coventry. We had lots of different experiences to see and participate in and the Ambassadors were at different venues which made it very interesting, especially for our first event recruits. There was a lot to visit such as the Photographic exhibition, Shop Front Theatre with different shows on every hour, also in Broadgate and Central Library shows and events all through the day.

Coventry Rugby
Celebration / City of Culture Handover
Sheila Grainger – Lead Ambassador Coordinator.
28 Ambassadors helped at least one (so far!) Coventry team celebrate promotion this season! On a cold, wet April day Ambassadors saw Coventry play Hull Ionians, receive the champions trophy and watch the symbolic handover of City of Culture status. Sponsors, former players, VIPs and supporters were met with warm Ambassador smiles at Butts Park Arena

“Would you please pass on Coventry Rugby Club’s appreciation to all your Ambassadors for the (always) positive and welcoming input they -each and everyone of them- made to today's "special event" at the Butts Park Arena
‘Places to go, people to see’ has been the mantra this year so far. Local radio stations such as BBC CWR, Touch FM and Radio Plus have featured Coventry Ambassadors on a regular basis and more ‘appearances’ are to follow. The Coventry Telegraph and Observer have both featured articles about us.

Our pink and purple contingent networked at #CWRocks Business Expo as if to the manner born! A week later we were involved in a very exciting new project, Young Ambassadors, when primary schoolchildren attended a conference about Tokyo2020. More news of this to come. Later in March, Task Group members welcomed attendees to the C&W Champions breakfast meeting.

Another fantastic effort from Task Group members who, often at short notice, have attended events, been interviewed, posted on social media etc to promote EnV and Coventry Ambassadors – Thank You!

**Induction & Training**

**Astrid Clarke**

The task group remains very busy, aiming to keep current Ambassadors updated and as professional as possible. 2018 has so far seen two training sessions for potential Ambassadors. We had 13 new inductees in January, of those 8 volunteered for the Shop Front Festival, and I’m sure enjoyed being involved with the Ambassadors. In April 15 attended their initial training session. Group leaders Diane & Sheila are planning a Personal Development session for all Ambassadors – watch this space! The next induction date is 26th June, so do you know anyone who would make a brilliant Coventry Ambassador? We continue to aim to include Coventry’s rich diversity bearing in mind that the City of Culture’s judges said this was one positive aspect leading to their decision.

“The overall experience was excellent.”

“A very informative evening which made me feel more comfortable about the role of a volunteer”

“Professional and people focused throughout. Congratulations to the presenting team”

**Fundraising & Social – Music Museum**

**Lisa Barrett**

The Coventry Ambassadors have recently set up a fundraising task group, the aim being not only to raise funds for the Ambassadors, but to also support a local charity. After winning a vote at the celebration event in December the Coventry Music Museum was chosen to be this year’s charity. A real hidden gem in our city, we are very excited to be able to assist! The money raised so far has enabled the Coventry Music Museum to purchase 2 pieces of audio/video equipment for the museum’s new exhibition, which although relatively small in cost, have been a real boost to the Museum.

**Coventry is extremely fortunate to have such a wonderful place like the Music Museum, which showcases our brilliant local talent, crammed full of really interesting memorabilia.**

Therefore, it is intended that any money raised throughout the duration of the year will be split between the Coventry Music Museum and the Ambassador programme. Aside from the aim of the group to raise money for new uniforms, we also hope to be able to bring the group together through various social events including the annual celebration event in December! The group are always keen to seek input and ideas for fundraising and social events from others and we would welcome your help to become a very successful group which really makes a difference to all.
The plans were all in place from Coventry University Student Union to deliver a new and exciting format for this popular local event. Coventry Ambassadors were to have roles in managing and supporting key areas, providing their experience and strong people skills to contribute to another successful event. It was great to see so many new recruits at the event briefing and they quickly found their places with fellow Ambassadors in their ‘race day’ teams. As always, the mood was positive, with a healthy blend of humour and comradery.

However, with weather warnings becoming even more serious, the organisers took the difficult decision, early on Friday afternoon, to cancel the event. Their decision was proved to be absolutely correct when on Sunday morning we woke to find dangerously frozen surfaces, snow flurries and strong winds that had a chill factor of minus 10!!

The good news for the 1200 children who were due to run in the Children’s Mile, is that the event was re-scheduled with Coventry Sport Foundation. Coventry Ambassadors attended in force to help the children and their supporters have a great time.

24th March saw 12 of us at the cathedral and Priory Visitor Centre supporting over 100 auditionees, mostly people who have overcome adversity. We experienced a very emotional occasion as well of course for those singing their hearts out. Two of those selected were fellow Ambassadors Diane Hill and Sund Ali.

We are now looking forward to waving off the Gosp-Ability choir before they perform at Windsor and we are following Diane and Sunds experience with great interest!

“Your volunteers were particularly supportive and sensitive with the auditionees and it was a joy to have them with us.”

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**Gosp-Ability Choir**

Astrid Clarke

Trish Adudu from BBC CWR recently requested our help with a Royal Wedding present – a song sung by a very special choir put together by award winning Singer/Songwriter Sandra Godley.

Pictured: Sonny & Diane who are part of the #GospAbility Choir who will be singing at Windsor Guildhall on 17th May as a gift to the Royal couple

Over the 6 years of our existence, Coventry Ambassadors have dealt with many challenging as well as straightforward situations. As the events we support have grown in diversity so have the situations we meet. We have to think on our feet and sometimes we have to make a very quick decision. Coventry Ambassadors have an excellent reputation and we are working hard to do all we can to maintain it… we are ever mindful that we want to ‘get it right’. As we head towards 2021, City of Culture ‘taster’ events have already involved us and we look forward to more. Therefore our Induction & Training Task Group will be running a Personal Development session for ALL Ambassadors in the Autumn.

The Personal Development session will be fun as well as helpful, giving Ambassadors an opportunity to swap stories too! Final details will be included in the next newsletter as well as on social media.

By the way, the opening scenario is true – it happened to me! What did I do?

**Engage with us!**

EnV is a Community Interest Company that manages and delivers a range of events, training & volunteer programmes in Coventry and the surrounding area. Winners of the SME Coventry & Warwickshire Award for Community Business of the Year 2017.

EnV manage and sustain the award winning Coventry Ambassador volunteer programme.

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