Making it Gr..EIGHT!

Including the 2012 year we welcome in year 8 for Coventry Ambassadors and year 5 for EnV…time has flown and I am proud that EnV will be directly supporting our city’s year as the European City of Sport!

I am also very pleased to welcome our second Patron. Following David Moorcroft is BBC TV & Radio Host Trish Adudu, an Ambassador of Coventry in her own right. A very warm welcome to Trish who many of the Coventry Ambassadors had the pleasure to meet at our celebration event.

2019 is set to be a fantastic (five!) and gr..eight year with the launch of new projects - watch this space and the continued work towards Tokyo2020; City of Culture 2021 and Commonwealth Games 2022 plus exciting European City of Sport events this year.

Thank you to all the Coventry Ambassador volunteers and all our supporting partners who keep the legacy alive. In 2018 633 volunteers were deployed over 48 event days totalling over 3,000 volunteer hours and over £50,000 of value in time.

Here is to a fantastic and great 2019!

David Boughey

Celebration Event

Well, what an evening we had! The Coventry Ambassadors met on 4th December for their annual celebration event which brought together a group of about 70 Ambassadors to reflect on the achievements of the past year and to do a spot of fund raising too!

Special guests included Trish Adudu who is now officially one of us and who can’t wait to join us at events – and to gain her pink & purple uniform!

The evening also included a raffle and quiz. The monies raised from this will go a little way in supporting not only ourselves but our new local chosen charity – the City of Coventry Corps of Drums!

The baton was well and truly passed on from Pete Chambers of Coventry Music Museum, to the CCC of Drums, where Pete gave a lovely speech to say thank you and, to say how much it has meant to him and his team having our support, helping to raise the profile of the Museum. We have certainly been banging the drum about this fabulous gem in our city and no pun intended but we can’t wait to bang the drum for our new charity too!!

Special thanks should go to the ‘back room team’ for helping me behind the scenes to make the evening a success!

Lisa Barrett

Coventry

European City of Sport

2019
**Events Roundup**

**Welcome Walk**

This event originated for Warwick University students to become more ‘au fait’ with the city centre. In October we led a group and we have been developing this to offer our services to other groups. This led to inducting 20 or so Ambassadors as Welcome Walk leaders. This is something that could really grow into another aspect of what we do – another way to show off our amazing city.

Astrid Clarke

**Remembrance Sunday**

With 2018 being a special anniversary and the beautiful Autumnal sunshine, this was a popular event for Ambassadors and those who attended. The War Memorial Park was the host venue again and what an emotional occasion! We always are glad to support this event.

**One Year On**

This event at Fargo Village was a chance for those involved in the City Of Culture Bid to celebrate and look ahead to 2021. 12 Ambassadors greeted and engaged with over 200 guests who after lunch watched performances compered by Sandra Godley of GospAbility fame]. The excitement grows!

**Sunrise**

The first event in 2019 was certainly colourful! Considering this busy time of year, the cold weather and the event being spread over 13 evenings from New Year’s Day, the Ambassador response was fantastic. The light and sound show held in the Cathedral ruins is one of many pre-2021 cultural events planned this year.

_I would just like to say a huge thank you to you and the volunteers for helping to deliver Sunrise. They were a pleasure to work with and quite frankly we wouldn’t have been able to pull it off without them. Looking forward to working with you again._

Best,

Asha Eade-Green
Arts & Events Manager

**Starley Sportive**

Over 20 Coventry Ambassador volunteers were on (purple) hand to welcome, register and way-find up to 500 cyclists at this fantastic European City of Sport event led by Coventry Road Club and Deeley’s.

_I had a great day on the Starley Sportive and the Ambassadors I think more than proved how useful they are from a users point of view._

Barrie, Starley Sportive Participant

**Events – What’s coming up?**

What a busy March we have in store! Confirmed so far this year are the Children’s Mile [17 March] and Coventry Half Marathon [24 March] in addition to a range of PR and training events. Potential events are very varied to say the least with some old faithfuls alongside ‘firsts’. We hope to see new recruits signing up as well as those who may have not have been able to volunteer lately.

**Viewpoint of**

...A Coventry Ambassador by Ayub Bhayat

Two years into my Ambassador Volunteer journey, the role has exceeded my expectations in terms of the activities I have been involved with and the camaraderie within the Volunteer team. The role provides the flexibility to support events around my personal commitments without any pressure to take on too much. I joined the Ambassador Volunteer programme as I thought it would be a good way of contributing something back to the city and community where I have lived my whole life.
The role has provided me additional knowledge about the city and its evolution. The knowledge that the Ambassador team have ensured that an event has run successfully provides a real sense of satisfaction.

These new skills and experiences gained will help me further in support of the many new events that the team will be supporting as part of UK’s City of Culture 2021 and European City of Sport 2019.

Now being semi – retired and having some more spare time, I am looking forward to expanding my Ambassador Volunteer role further through supporting the Welcome Walk guide events and supporting the Ambassador Press and PR Task Group. I am looking forward to an exciting 2019.

Ayub Bhayat.

Task Group Updates

The Fundraising and Social Events group organised a successful Celebration event. The Tesco bag pack in December also raised a pleasing amount. We hope this year that our fundraising group can really make a difference.

The Induction and Training Group had lots of feedback after the pilot workshop Being an Ambassador, Being a Leader. The intention now is to roll this out to ALL Ambassadors over the year. We recruited over 50 new Ambassadors in 2018, many of whom attended events soon after their induction. 10 out of the 16 recruited in November 2018 attended Sunrise. Impressio

The Press and PR task group have been so busy other task group members have been co-opted when needed. Within days of becoming European City of Sport [aka ECoS] we were promoting at ‘takeover’ days at Wasps, Blaze and Sky Blues matches. More to come.

Ambassadors were also greeters at the briefing for clubs and the ECoS civic reception. Very early starts for Coventry and Warwickshire Champions breakfast meetings continue.

Have you seen the Coventry flag yet? Marie and Astrid were at the Council House for the official raising and even waved their flags on Midlands Today! Brody Swain interviewed Ambassadors on BBC CWR when a flag was raised above the Music Museum, very appropriate. More of the Tokyo delegates visit later.

Tokyo Delegates

In December David’s link with the Tokyo 2020 Olympic volunteer programme organisers continued. Task group members and some Young Ambassadors met delegates at the Council House. It is really exciting to realise that our legacy will be evident at the Games. Our gifts included Paul Chinn’s poem, theirs included chocolate!

A herd of cows, a flock of birds, but a group of Ambassadors? One suggestion – a HOST of Ambassadors!

Young Ambassadors

These are exciting times for the Young Ambassadors. Since the last newsletter some have had a taste of media interest – photos and even TV interviews! At the official raising of Coventry’s own flag they featured on Midlands Today and posed for numerous photos. Another major event was meeting and greeting delegates from Tokyo 2020.

Rebecca Bollands from Howes Primary School has had very exciting news for some who have been invited to visit Japan later this year. The programme goes from strength to strength with EnV developing and delivering training for 200 of the Young Ambassadors in February and a further 100 to be trained in March with our Coventry Ambassador volunteers facilitating the activities with 30 of the partnership schools.

Thanks so much for arranging all the training yesterday. It was really successful...The ambassadors were all brilliant. It was a really big ask of them to lead training for so many children and they all did an amazing job.

Mrs Bollands, Deputy Head, Howes Primary School

Engage with us!

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