

COVENTRY 4 GOOD AND COVENTRY UNIVERSITY GRANT

QUARTER 1 REPORT

This is a joint report compiled by Colin Scott, Chair: Positive Images Festival and Pru Porretta, from the Godiva Trust. Although there are shared experience and links the project falls into two parts;

- 1) 6 Storytelling Workshops including 3 workshops working with women in three areas of the city Spon End, Hillfields and Foleshill
- 2) Celebrate 1016 and the destruction of the convent and the roles of Godiva and Leofric in building the Church on the same spot by getting people to take part in crafts and heritage tours

Storytelling Workshops Programme

Led by the Imagination Café Storytellers and musicians, two workshops have been undertaken

- 1.) 14th May As part of the Spon Spun Festival in Spon End where the storytellers worked mainly with adult audiences following the Spon Spun trail through the area and at different venues including Artspace, Windmill pub, the Weavers House and the Albany Theatre. Altogether 92 people attended the storytelling workshops, mainly adults. Of those attending and getting involved 12 were students from Coventry and Warwick Universities.
- 2.) As part of the Positive Images Festival at the Hope Centre in Hillfields an Imagination Storytelling Café took place on 25th June run by professional storytellers and musicians playing the sitar, guitar and African drums. There were 76 people attending including 40 adults and 26 children. Students from Coventry University were involved in the design of the publicity and supported the planning of the event along with 25 young people and mentors from NCS Challenge. Students were involved in poetry readings later in the day at the Hillfields Readers Group open afternoon which comprised the Positive Images event. Photographs attached. Communities involved included white, Asian, Bangladeshi, Somali, African and refugees. The audience were intergenerational with adults, students and children involved in reading, storytelling and competitions and quizzes.

Photographs show the Imagination Café storytellers and musicians at Artspace and the Albany Theatre during the Spon Spun Festival in May and at the Hope Centre during Positive Images Festival in June.





The Godiva Trust Project

The celebration of 1016 a thousand years of Coventry will be captured, and the rebuilding of the Godiva and Leofric's Church will be recognised at a special event on the 9th September 2016 where work produced by different communities and groups will culminate. Since May workshops with professional artists have been training volunteers, schools and women's groups to take part in crafts sessions, heritage tours and storytelling to capture 1000 years of the history of Coventry.

Working with a variety of community groups, individuals and schools across the city, Godiva Trust has led a project that has created a unique tapestry that captures the evolution of the City of Coventry. Starting with the destruction of the convent of St Osburga 1000 years ago, the tapestry highlights key historical events and movements that shaped Coventry into the city we know today. The tapestry is formed of several panels that move through the different time periods with the final panel looking to where the future of Coventry lies.



People of all ages, backgrounds and skills have joined together to create a legacy that will be a shared resource for schools and community centres to teach the history of Coventry and it is during the event on 9th September that the tapestry will be shared with the public in its entirety.

This project and performance continues to bring people together in a spirit of peace and reconciliation. The Godiva Trust believes that it can play a significant part in the future development of community relations and bringing people together to celebrate the city we live in.

'People of all different ages from a variety of communities have come together to create the tapestry charting 1000 years of Coventry history' This project has worked with 150 volunteers from 15 community groups, over 500 children from 20 schools, and 3 professional paid artists and 2 professional musicians.



'Godiva Trust events celebrate the rich diversity of our city with music, dance and food from a variety of Coventry's communities'

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Examples of this work include weaving, multi media work, knitting, crochet, French knitting, embroidery, dry clay making, printing, working with wood plus lots of research.



We are now putting everything together ready for the unveiling of the Tapestry with a grand procession, music, song and dance for Friday 9th September in the New Cathedral.



What a wonderful project the tapestry is! Coventry's history is endlessly fascinating and the way you are able to weave so many people together in a common celebration of our past is so important for our future together.

With kindest regards to you and great appreciation of all you do

As ever, yours,

+ Christopher