

## Story of Coventry

Population:

345,400

Life expectancy female/male (But against national rate it is declining):

82.3 female

78.6 male

Students at Coventry:

City Council - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/>  
<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/factsaboutcoventry/>

Coventry's wheelie-bin lady - put a cat in a wheelie bin - got caught on CCTV putting a cat in a wheelie bin

"A City Reborn" - film about Coventry after the war (22m)

<http://player.bfi.org.uk/film/watch-city-reborn-1945/>

### **Coventry is the 9th largest city in England.**

Coventry grew to become one of the most important cities in England during the Middle Ages due to its booming cloth and textiles trade.

SOMETHING ABOUT RIBBONS, THREADS, TIES THAT BIND, ETC

The legend of Lady Godiva claims that in the 11th century, this noblewoman rode naked through the streets of Coventry in order to convince her husband to remove taxes on the local people. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady\\_Godiva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Godiva)

Cloth and textile Trade

Transport Companies

Desctruction during war

rebuilding - Gibson plan

Become a university/polytechnic

Coventry story>

This tale's about ideas and threads being spun.

Getting woven into stories of this situation.

A tale that entwynes and to this city, binds one.

Our jounries, like many, in three parts unfold.

Brings us to here and now, through war, from days of old.

Not quite his-story, but listen yet, to what I have told.

So from the first, a medieval centre of faith our guilded community we know.

To the sacred, pageants and mystery plays its pilgrims bow.

With wool, cotton, blue silk, our centre's import does grow.

War work directs, targets England's industrial middle.

One night, Nineteen Forty, explosives concentrated, lives coventrated.

One thousand two hundred and fifty are gone.

Yet, bombed, burned, our city lives on, working for a future, still to be won.

With Baby Boomers, Gibson's plan, and prefabs, a phoenix is born.

Industry, fabrication and purpose are respun.

Foundations of learning, new shrines and homes set in concrete.

A city that wouldn't die looks to the present and you in the eye.

So on screen, in theatre, street, home and dorm we call,

learner, resident, friend, artist, act-ivator, all;

To think, ask, untangle, perform, watch and voice,

this situation, with its knots, and new ties to explore.