

PeaceWalk around Coventry War Memorial Park

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Coventry Lord Mayor's Committee
for Peace & Reconciliation



Produced by the United Nations Association Coventry Branch and Coventry Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation

What is a PeaceTwalk?

Twalk = Talk + Walk. A PeaceTwalk is when you take the first steps in building good community relations by walking and talking with people from a different community, country, race, culture, colour or age.

Ideally you will also take selfies of the people you twalk with and send to social media with the hashtag #PeaceTwalk, although this is optional.

Online Map

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1 Coventry Park and Ride

The PeaceTwalk begins here.

This is the main car park in the War Memorial Park.

Buses 12X, 18A, 40, 45, 87, 89, U17 and X17 either stop here or nearby.

The entrance is at 36 Kenilworth Road, Coventry CV3 6PG.

Questions to discuss as you begin the walk

Find somebody you do not know and ask them why they came on this twalk and what they hope to get out of it.

2 War Memorial Park

Coventry's largest city park opened in July 1921 as Coventry's tribute to the soldiers from the city who lost their lives during the First World War (1914-1918).

In 1923 a scheme was started to plant trees in memory of men who had died, each with its own plaque. Over 200 trees were planted.

The park is one of the main venues for the city's Remembrance Sunday commemorations. A Parade and Service led by the Lord Mayor and Bishop of Coventry to honour those fallen in the World Wars and other conflicts has been held here every year since 1945.

On 17 July 2014 the Memorial Park was dedicated as a Centenary Field in a ceremony performed by Prince William. It is the first of 500 parks to be awarded this status. The Centenary Fields programme working in partnership with The Royal British Legion aims to protect parks, playing fields and other recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions who lost their lives in World War I.

You can find out more about the park at www.coventry.gov.uk/wmp

Question to stimulate conversation

Is it right that we should remember the dead?

Does this not prolong memories of war and bitterness?

3 Poppy Tree Sculpture

Carved from a damaged Atlantic Cedar tree by chain-saw artist John Wakefield in early 1990s after massive snowfall.

Poppies are a sign of remembrance for those dead during the First World War.

Questions to discuss

Is a poppy the most appropriate symbol to remember the dead?

What symbol would you choose?

4 Hiroshima Tree

Chinese Parasol Tree grown from a Seed of Peace taken from a tree that survived the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, on 6 August 1945.

Questions to discuss

Were the Americans right to drop atom bombs in Japan?

5 German Peace Garden

In 1962 the first Coventry Flower Show took place in the War Memorial Park.

The West German Horticultural Federation were invited to participate. They suggested they return to create a Garden of Peace. This was opened in 1963 by the German Ambassador.

It serves as a reminder of the desire of German people for peace. It was renovated in 2011 by Coventry German Circle.

Actions

Please take a selfie and post on social media using #PeaceTwalk

6 War Memorial and

The War Memorial was built of 1927 by Field Marshall Earl Haig, Forces in France during the "Great

Inside the Memorial is a room Every year on Remembrance November), it is open for the Fallen", books listing all of the killed in the two World Wars and

Question to stimulate

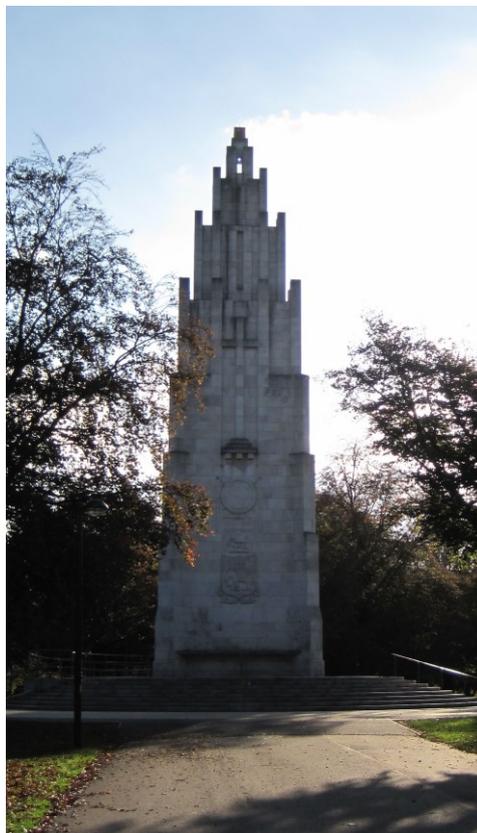
Should we commemorate those way to commemorate them?

7 The Rose Garden

Planting of the Rose Garden was Memorial Park and other Can you find the four suits found planted, visitors could buy a rose names are recorded in the Rose Garden Remembrance Book that is on display when the Friends of the Park are in the Visitor Centre.

8 The Pond Garden

Looking at water often makes people feel calmer and more peaceful. However fresh water is in short supply in many countries and this causes conflict. The United Nations has formed a Global High-Level Panel of War Memorial PeaceTwalk



Chamber of Silence

Portland stone and unveiled in Commander in Chief of British War". It is around 26 metres tall.

called the Chamber of Silence. Sunday (second Sunday in public to view the "Roll of the Coventry servicemen who were even as recently as the Gulf War.

conversation

fallen in war? Is silence the best What alternative might we use?

assisted by Friends of the War volunteers. It has a Tudor theme. in a pack of cards. When it was in memory of a loved one whose

Water and Peace to help prevent water-related conflicts and facilitate the use of water as an important factor of building peace and enhancing the relevance of water issues in national and global policy making.

9 The Beech Leaves

This artwork was created to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War.

Beech trees were the main species planted when the park was established in 1921.

The leaves were produced by Steve Tomlinson

Men and Machinery

The bi-plane and gun were both manufactured in Coventry. The ship had shells and mountings made in Coventry.

Women and the War

About 1 million women volunteered to work in factories making shells and weapons during the two World Wars. Others were nurses or worked on farms. Writing for a magazine, one woman worker wrote she was "using my life's energy to destroy human souls".

Munitions factories were prime targets from enemy bombs in both World Wars. Handling explosives every



day was dangerous work. They had to fill a shell casing with explosives then hammer down the detonator on top. If they tapped too hard the shell could detonate, blinding them and blowing off their hands.

The skin of many factory workers turned yellow because of exposure to toxic TNT. They were called "Canary Girls". Their hair turned blond and some gave birth to

bright yellow babies. Others had bone disintegration, dermatitis and liver jaundice.

10 Visitors Centre

Missing Faces

The War Memorial Park has around 800 memorial trees dedicated to those who lost their lives in conflict.

The Missing Faces project created by historian Trevor Harkin and the Friends of the Park shows the photographs of the 264 people killed during the First World War 1 who have a memorial plaque and tree in the park.

Visitor's Centre

The organised walk ends here with light refreshments and discussion about what participants have gained from the Twalk.

Social Media

Take a photo or a video and upload to social media using #PeaceTwalk

11 If want to keep Twalking...

During the Second World War, barrage balloons and anti-aircraft guns were based in the park and today you can still see the large concrete blocks where they were positioned.

More Information on the Web

United Nations Association Coventry Branch unacov.uk

Coventry Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation coventrycityofpeace.uk

Friends of the War Memorial Park www.fwmpcoventry.org.uk

The Memorial Park www.coventry.gov.uk/wmp

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