

COVENTRY

Population 345,385

www.coventry.gov.uk

Lord Mayor: Cllr. Linda Bigham

Coventry was the first city to twin with Cork. The decision to twin with Coventry was a result of the number of Cork people who had emigrated to Coventry to find work and later chose it as a place to settle.

Given such a strong local base with immediate connections to Cork, it was clear that twinning would be successful. Some of the twinning activities which have taken place include:-

- Lord Mayor of Cork pays an annual visit to Coventry to attend the Irish Association Dinner, www.Coventryirishsociety.co.uk
- Shamrock is sent every year from Cork City to the Coventry Irish Society for their St. Patrick's Day events.
- Poetry exchange between Cork and Coventry poets has been taking place for a number of years. This twinned city poetry exchange enriches O'Bheál's annual programme of events and is supported by the council's twinning grant programme.
- For the past number of years, athletes from Coventry have travelled to Cork to take part in the cork City marathon and half marathon. In 2018, Coventry was represented by Nick Bennett and Myshola Kirkham.
- Cork musicians visited Coventry and Warwick in July 2017, and two Coventry bands paid a return visit to Cork for the Cork folk Festival which took place between 2nd and 3rd September. These visits were supported by the Council's twinning Grant Programme.
- The Irish Heart, Coventry Home exhibition launch at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry took place on March 9th, 2018 and was attended by Cllr. Kieran McCarthy. This project was a 15 month history project which was conducted by the Coventry Irish Society where they explored the history of the Irish Community in Coventry. The exhibition ran in the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum until April 10th. The Exhibition then travelled to Cork where it was on display in the City Hall atrium from September 17th to October 12th and was officially launched by the Lord Mayor on September 18th. Representatives from the Coventry Irish Society travelled to Cork for the launch.



Pictured L – R. Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cork City Council, Simon McCarthy, Coventry Irish Society, Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Mick Finn, Kay Forrest, Coventry Irish Society and Ciaran Davis, Project Co-ordinator at the launch of the exhibition Irish Heart, Coventry Home.