Coventry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

**Biography**

The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* is the national record of people who have shaped British history, worldwide, from the Romans to the 21st century. The Oxford DNB (ODNB) currently includes the life stories of over 60,000 men and women who died in or before 2017. Over 1,300 of those lives contain references to Coventry, whether of events, offices, institutions, people, places, or sources preserved there. Of these, over 160 men and women in ODNB were either born, baptized, educated, died, or buried there. Many more, of course, spent periods of their life in Coventry and left their mark on the city’s history and its built environment.

This survey brings together over 300 lives in ODNB connected with Coventry, ranging over ten centuries, extracted using the advanced search ‘life event’ and ‘full text’ features on the online site (www.oxforddnb.com). The same search functions can be used to explore the biographical histories of other places in the Coventry region: Kenilworth produces references in 229 articles, including 44 key life events; Leamington, 235 and 95; and Nuneaton, 69 and 17, for example.

Most public libraries across the UK subscribe to ODNB, which means that the complete dictionary can be accessed for free via a local
library. Libraries also offer 'remote access' which makes it possible to log in at any time at home (or anywhere that has internet access).

Elsewhere, the ODNB is available online in schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions worldwide.

**Early benefactors: Godgifu [Godiva] and Leofric**

The benefactors of Coventry before the Norman conquest, Godgifu [Godiva] (d. 1067?) and her husband, Leofric, earl of Mercia (d. 1057), were both considerable landowners. Godgifu possessed substantial estates in Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire, probably through her own inheritance. Her birth date is not known, but as she probably married before 1010, a birth date of about 990 has been suggested. Nor is her death date certain, though 1067 is consistent with other evidence. She was probably buried with her husband at Coventry. In or before 1043 she and her husband, Leofric, founded and endowed Coventry Abbey. One source states that Godgifu gave 'her whole store of gold and silver', to provide Coventry with the appropriate ecclesiastical ornaments. Leofric is known to have been given land in Warwickshire in 998 in addition to his other estates, which enabled him, with Godgifu, to establish Coventry as a family monastery and mausoleum. Leofric died at his manor of King's Bromley, Staffordshire, and was buried at Coventry.

The chronicler Roger of Wendover (d. 1236) was the first to tell of how Leofric the husband of the noblewoman, promised to free the inhabitants of Coventry from toll if she would ride naked through the
town. According to this account, written more than 150 years after her death, Godgifu took up the challenge and rode through the market place, attended by two soldiers, covering herself with her long golden hair. It was not until much later (1678) that Godiva’s ride was commemorated in an annual procession in Coventry. The legend of her ride was examined by the Coventry-born historian, Alexander Gordon writing on ‘Godiva or Godgifu’ in the original DNB in 1890 (accessible through the link to the archive edition on the ODNB site).

Leofwine (d. in or before 1095), is usually considered as having been made the first abbot of Leofric and Godgifu’s foundation at Coventry in about 1043. He was said to have been brought up from childhood as a monk of the Benedictine abbey of Coventry, which suggests that there was an earlier monastery in Coventry, perhaps associated with the cult of St Osburga. Leofwine was made bishop of Lichfield in 1053 and may have continued to hold his abbacy alongside the bishopric. In 1070–71 his enemies raked up an old scandal of his having been a married man with children.

Bishops of Coventry, 1102-1976

In 1102 Coventry became the seat of a diocese and ODNB includes the lives of fifty-two of its bishops, over ten centuries, including all thirty of the pre-Reformation bishops of Coventry (and Lichfield). The earliest was the Norman, Robert de Limesey (d. 1117), who in 1102 obtained the pope’s assent to removing his see to Coventry, where the Benedictine priory of St Mary’s served as the cathedral, and
where de Limesey was buried. Among the notable examples are

Roger of Clinton (d. 1148), born in Normandy, who was enthroned at Coventry in 1130. He has been described as a man of some learning, a gifted diocesan administrator, an important patron of monks and founder of religious communities, and lastly a crusader, joining a contingent of crusaders in 1147. He died in Antioch in the following year. Gerard Pucelle (d. 1184), who was probably of Norman or French origin, had been a distinguished teacher of canon law in Paris, and master of the cathedral school in Cologne and visited Rome, where Pope Alexander III admired his learning. He was elected bishop of Coventry in 1183, but died at Coventry in the following year, under circumstances that led some to suspect that he had been poisoned. He was buried in Coventry Cathedral. Hugh de Nonant (d. 1198), appointed to the Coventry see in 1185 and also from a Norman ecclesiastical family, was at the centre of a celebrated armed fracas in Coventry Cathedral priory in 1189, when he drove out the monks. The appointment in 1224 of Alexander of Stainsby [Stavensby] (d. 1238), a scholarly theologian, known to have written two tracts, on the seven deadly sins and confession, was contested between the monks of Coventry (who attempted to elect their prior to the bishopric) and the secular canons of Lichfield. His episcopate saw the elevation of Lichfield to equal status with Coventry, and he adopted the title of bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. John Burghill [Burghull] (c. 1330–1414), enthroned in 1398, fostered both his cathedral churches. At Coventry he promoted the cult of St Osberga, whose relics lay in the priory. Consecrated bishop of
Coventry and Lichfield in 1534, Rowland Lee (c. 1487–1543) was one of the first bishops to take the oath recognizing the king as the supreme head of the Church in England. He objected to the dissolution in 1539 of the monastic cathedral of Coventry, which he called his 'principall see and hede churche' and which he unsuccessfully hoped would become a college of learned men.

The seat of the bishopric, which came to be titled Lichfield and Coventry, moved to Lichfield, though John Overall (bap. 1561, d. 1619), consecrated in 1614, met James I at Coventry in the summer of 1617 during the king’s progress south from his Scottish kingdom. During the episcopate of Robert Wright (1560–1643), there were disputes about the position of communion tables in Coventry’s parish churches. His reluctance to offend town corporations and influential members of the gentry meant that he allowed puritan lectureships to flourish in Coventry and elsewhere throughout the 1630s. John Hacket (1592–1670) consecrated in 1661, after the restoration, found the Presbyterian clergy in Coventry ‘troublesome’. For next 150 years the focus of the bishops was on Lichfield. From 1837 Coventry was subsumed within the diocese of Worcester, with suffragan bishops, until its revival in 1918 when the parish church of St Michael’s was designated the cathedral church.

Appointed in 1930, Mervyn George Haigh (1887–1962) led the diocese through the blitz in 1940, responding to the overnight destruction of the cathedral and four parish churches. Cuthbert Killick Norman Bardsley (1907–1991) was enthroned in Coventry in the ruins of the old cathedral in 1956. The central point of his whole
life and work was the consecration of Coventry’s renewed cathedral in 1962. He was involved in founding the University of Warwick. He retired in 1976.

Magnates, Monks, Rebels, and Coventry Citizens

A warlike man, almost unequalled in his time for ferocity, adroitness, and daring, the baron Robert Marmion, (d. 1144) expelled the monks from the priory of Coventry and turned its stone walls into a fortress in his struggle with his baronial rival, the earl of Chester. Monastic chroniclers linked this act of desecration to his ignominious death in battle, ‘crushed under the weight of divine judgement’. Geoffrey (d. 1235), elected in 1214 prior of the Benedictine cathedral priory of St Mary, worked to strengthen his house’s cathedral status, and the monks unsuccessfully attempted to choose him as bishop in 1223. The nobleman and baronial leader, Sir Henry Hastings (1235?–1269) who took up arms against Henry III, and led the garrison at Kenilworth Castle during the siege by the king’s forces in 1266, was buried in the chapel of the Friars Minor at Coventry. The administrator and landowner, Sir Geoffrey Langley (c. 1200–1274), whose family owned property at Pinley near Coventry, was buried, as were his second wife and his son, in the church of the Franciscans in Coventry. The soldier and landowner, John Hastings, first Lord Hastings (1262–1313), who was born at Allesley, near Coventry, the eldest son and heir of Sir Henry Hastings, was buried in the Hastings chapel in the church of the Friars Minor at Coventry.
After being executed as a common criminal at Tyburn, the body of Roger Mortimer, first earl of March (1287–1330), regent, soldier, and magnate, was left on the gallows for two days and nights, before being interred at Coventry at the house of the Franciscans, who proved very reluctant to hand it over to his widow to be reinterred in the family priory at Wigmore in 1331. In 1381 John Luscote (d. 1398), a monk of the Carthusian order, was involved in the foundation of a charterhouse at Coventry, contemporary with peasants’ revolt, whose leader, John Ball (d. 1381) was arrested at Coventry. The heretic William Swinderby (fl. 1382–1392), was a disciple of John Wyclif during the 1380s and 1390s, settled in Coventry, where he preached but seems to have been forced to leave the town. Another Wycliffite, Nicholas Hereford, (b. c. 1345, d. after 1417), entered the Charterhouse in Coventry, and there he died as a monk, at an unrecorded date.

The diplomat and ecclesiastic, John Shepey (d. 1412) was born in Coventry in the mid-fourteenth century. His father, Jordan Shepey, was one of twelve Coventry merchants who had succeeded in wresting control of the town from the prior and monks of Coventry Cathedral and putting it in the hands of their class; he became second mayor of Coventry under its new charter of 1345. Another citizen, the glass painter John Thornton (fl. 1405–1433), was contracted with the dean and chapter to glaze the great east window of York Minster. The vicar of St Michael’s, Coventry, from 1441 until his death was the ecclesiastic, Thomas Chesterfield [Worshope] (d. 1452), who was until the early twentieth century thought to be the author of the
Lichfield Chronicle (and was described as such in the original DNB article on him, published in 1887, and which can be viewed on the archive edition loaded on the ODNB site). There are articles on some 30 figures who attended the parliaments held in Coventry in 1404 and 1459. Among the members of Coventry’s monastic institutions in the late middle ages was John Norton (d. 1521/2), who became a Carthusian in 1482 or 1483, and was a monk of the Coventry Charterhouse. It is likely that while he was there he wrote a short treatise on monastic life, a version of which is preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Born in Coventry in the late fifteenth century, Robert Shirwood (fl. 1519–1523), became a noted scholar of Hebrew and travelled abroad to further his knowledge of oriental languages.

The civic office of recorder of Coventry was held by many distinguished lawyers, notably Sir Thomas Littleton [Lyttleton] (d. 1481), who was elected in 1449. His celebrated legal treatise on tenures was the subject of the masterwork of another holder of the office, Sir Edward Coke (1552–1634), appointed recorder in 1585, whose Commentarie upon Littleton appeared in 1628. The lawyer and printer, John Rastell (c. 1475–1536) was probably born in Coventry, where his father and grandfather both had civic and legal responsibilities, and was himself admitted to the city’s Corpus Christi Guild in 1489. In 1506 he succeeded his father as coroner of Coventry, but resigned in 1608 and moved to London where he was in legal practice and also set up as a printer. His son, William Rastell (1508–1565), born in Coventry, joined his father’s printing business,
and as a member of Thomas More's circle became More's principal publisher.

The cloth trade was another link between Coventry and London. Sir William Holles, (1471?–1542), born at Stoke on the outskirts of Coventry, was apprenticed to a citizen and mercer of London, and went on to become Lord Mayor. The dissolution of monasteries provided opportunities for two Londoners to acquire ecclesiastical property in Coventry. The administrator and member of parliament, John Hales (1516?–1572) established a free school in St John's Hospital, Coventry, possibly at the request of Henry VIII, after whom it was later named (and is referred variously as the ‘free school’ and ‘King Henry VIII grammar school’). A cloth merchant, Sir Thomas White, (1495?–1567), founder of St John's College, Oxford, began his large-scale charitable provision in 1542 with a gift of £1400 to the corporation of Coventry which enabled the purchase of old priory lands. In 1551 the income from this land was secured in the form of interest-free loans for honest and thrifty apprentices from Coventry for forty years after White's death. The administrator and diplomat Robert Beale (1541–1601), the son of a London mercer, was among the early generations to be educated at the free grammar school in Coventry, as was Richard Baylie (1585/6?–1667), who later became president of St John’s College.

Martyrs, dissenters, and royal visitors
Lollard and protestant martyrs in Coventry included Joan Washingby [née Ward] (d. 1512) [see Lollard women (act. c.1390-c.1520)], who had learned her heresy from Alice Rowley, a leading Coventry Lollard, about 1490. She participated actively in the Lollard movement in Coventry, and is known to have owned at least one Lollard book. In March 1512 she was condemned as a relapsed heretic and burnt in Coventry, where she is among those commemorated on the Coventry Martyrs’ monument. Although arrested in London, the protestant martyr, Lawrence Saunders (d. 1555), was executed by burning at Coventry possibly as a response to the town’s known protestantism. Born in Coventry the son of a mercer or upholsterer, who was sheriff and later mayor of Coventry, Julins Palmer (1531/2–1556) became a college fellow and teacher at Oxford, but after being influenced by his reading of Calvin was condemned to be burnt at Newbury, Berkshire. The protestant martyr, Robert Glover (d. 1555) came from a gentry family in Warwickshire and was at the heart of a network of protestant reformers, who included John Careless, a Coventry weaver. He was burnt in the same fire with Cornelius Bungey, a capper, at Coventry. His martyrdom was recorded in contemporary ballads.

Humphrey Fenn (1543/4–1634), vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry, from 1578, became associated with the growing presbyterian movement in Coventry. He was twice suspended from his vicarage and later
imprisoned for his puritan activities. From 1596 the Church of England clergyman and religious controversialist **Thomas Hutton** (1565/6–1639) lived in Coventry and preached the Wednesday sermon. **Thomas Cooper [Cowper]** (b. 1569/70, d. in or after 1626), vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry from 1604, repeatedly drew attention to God's deliverance of the nation from the Gunpowder Plot. In 1606 **Isabel Darcy [née Wray; other married names Foljambe, Bowes]**, Lady Darcy (d. 1622), hosted a conference at her house in Coventry that was attended by many leading puritans.

Coventry authors of this period include **Thomas Draxe** (d. 1618/19), a Church of England clergyman, whose early writings were signed from Stoneleigh or Coventry, notably *The Worldes Resurrection*, dedicated from Coventry in 1608. The physician, **John Cotta** (1575?-1627/8), was the son of a Coventry physician, and enjoyed the patronage of the puritan gentry in the Midlands. In later life he returned to Coventry, where he died. **Julines Herring** (1582–1644), whose father was sheriff and mayor of Coventry, attended the school there and later studied divinity there, encouraged by the renowned nonconformist minister Humphrey Fenn. His lifelong refusal to yield to the authority of the English bishops made him a significant figure to the presbyterians in England during the civil war period.

The collector of ballads and romances, **Captain Cox of Coventry** (fl. 1575), was a mason by profession who is mainly known for his part in the entertainments which took place in honour
of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth, and also for his library, comprising more than sixty works which provides an important insight into Elizabethan reading habits. **Princess Elizabeth [Elizabeth Stuart]** (1596–1662), eldest and only surviving daughter of James VI of Scotland (James I of England) and Anne of Denmark, received her early education near Coventry, when she was placed in the household at Combe Abbey, Warwickshire, of John, Lord Harington of Exton, and his wife, Anne. Harington was well known for his strict adherence to the Reformed faith, for his abhorrence of Catholicism, and for his belief in the virtues of learning, ideals which were to have a considerable influence on the princess. Elizabeth lived mostly at Combe Abbey, on the outskirts of Coventry. At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, Harington brought her to Coventry, fearing that the conspirators would try to seize the princess. The Church of England clergyman, Nathaniel Tovey (*bap.* 1597, *d.* 1658), born in Coventry the son of the master of the free school, also lived in the Harington household during his early life, when his father became tutor to the Harington family. When James I visited Coventry in 1617 the translator, Philemon Holland (1552–1637), who was the usher at the free school (later King Henry VIII School), Coventry, where he taught for forty years, made a speech in his honour. Holland was admitted to the freedom of the city of Coventry in 1612, and later received a pension from the city, but lamented that despite his prodigious literary output he was never prosperous. His three sons, the printer and bookseller, Henry Holland (*b.* 1583, *d.* in or after 1649), the poet, Abraham Holland (*d.* 1626), and the print
publisher, Compton Holland, (d. 1622), were probably born in Coventry and educated at the grammar school. The surgeon, Thomas Hollier (bap. 1609, d. 1690), reputedly the son of a poor shoemaker in Coventry, was baptized at Holy Trinity, but was taken to London in early life.

**Civil war bastion of presbyterian orthodoxy**

In 1642 Obadiah Grew (bap. 1607, d. 1689), a clergyman and master of the grammar school at Atherstone, Warwickshire, moved to the parliamentarian stronghold of Coventry, where he preached to the troops, and by 1644 had become vicar of St Michael's, replacing William Panting, the sequestered royalist incumbent. During the civil war Coventry sheltered a score of ministers fleeing royalist troops; regular solemn fasts were held and the city became noted for its orthodox godliness. Grew was active in the ‘Kenilworth classis’, a quasi-presbyterian organization of the county’s ministers, meeting for mutual support and ordination of new ministers from the mid-1650s. Grew left his living in 1662, but mostly remained in Coventry, and was licensed as a presbyterian in 1672. Imprisoned during the early 1680s, he preached regularly later in the decade to a large congregation at Coventry’s Leather Hall, and was buried at St Michael’s, Coventry, having done much to make Coventry a bastion of religious dissent. His collaborator, John Bryan (d. 1676), who in 1644 became vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry, was another leading figure in the circle of godly orthodox divines who included, as well as
Grew, Richard Vines, and Richard Baxter. At the Restoration Bryan was ejected from his living, and from that time until his death lived at Coleshill and at Coventry, and he ministered to nonconformist congregations in both places. Bryan’s friend, Richard Vines (1599/1600–1656), rector of Caldecote, Warwickshire, was ejected from his livings, and in 1643 joined other puritan exiles in Coventry, and established a daily lecture there at St Michael’s. Richard Baxter (1615–1691) was another of the puritan ministers from the central counties of England who sought safety in Coventry. The politician and regicide, William Purefoy (c. 1580–1659), was member for Coventry in 1656 in the first protectorate parliament, having close ties with Coventry and its tradesmen. A member of the Coventry Drapers’ Company, Robert Beake (d. 1708) was motivated by his staunch puritanism to raise a regiment in Warwickshire for the parliamentary cause during the civil war, was acting governor of Coventry in 1650, and represented the town in the protectorate parliaments. In a later generation, the Presbyterian minister, Joshua Oldfield (1656–1729), became in 1694 copastor with William Tong (1662–1727) of the presbyterian meeting at Coventry, where he formed an academy for training students for the ministry Presbyterian minister.

John Bryan was succeeded in 1661 as vicar of Holy Trinity by the poet, Nathaniel Wanley (1632/3–1680), who had married the daughter of the long-standing coroner and town clerk of Coventry, and was willing to conform. Much of his time at Coventry went into
restoring the fabric of Holy Trinity. Apart from his poetry, Wanley was best known for his book, *The Wonders of the Little World, or, A General History of Man* (1678), an exhaustive and carefully documented compendium of human prodigies, which ran to at least six editions in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Other Coventry lives in this period include the naturalist, **Robert Lovell**, (1630?–1690), who left Oxford and settled in Coventry, where he was in medical practice and was buried in Holy Trinity Church. The botanist and physician **Nehemiah Grew** (*bap.* 1641, *d.* 1712), son of Obadiah Grew, vicar of St Michael’s, was brought up and educated in Coventry and went on to become joint secretary of the Royal Society. Samuel Watson, a clockmaker in Coventry, made a watch for the purpose of timing the pulse, commissioned by the Lichfield physician, **Sir John Floyer** (1649–1734), physician, who published on *The Physician’s Pulse Watch* (2 vols., 1707–10), the first instrument designed for bedside clinical measurement. **Bartholomew Beale** (*bap.* 1656, *d.* 1709), son of the portrait painter, Mary Beale, whose husband was from a puritan family, practised as a physician in Coventry, where he was buried at St Michael’s. The ecclesiastical lawyer and legal writer **Thomas Oughton** (*b.* 1660), was born in Coventry, and succeeded his father as an officer of the court of delegates. He achieved a lasting reputation for his treatise on procedure in the ecclesiastical courts. The spy and writer, **Matthew Smith** (*b.* *c.* 1665, *d.* before 1723?), was the son of a Coventry mercer who was a puritan and had served as mayor in 1648. The mathematician and almanac maker, **John Tipper** (*b.* before
1680, d. 1713), born at Coventry and from 1699 master of Bablake Hospital school, launched in 1704 the *Ladies' Diary*, a hybrid almanac and pioneering women's magazine. He also planned an ambitious history of Coventry, which he did not live to complete.

Attendance (or probable attendance, given the uncertainty of some of the sources) at the grammar school links many of the ODNB biographies of Coventry figures who were active in the seventeenth century. They included the merchant and first governor of New Haven colony in America, Theophilus Eaton (1590–1658), son of the vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry; the Franciscan friar and religious controversialist, Christopher Davenport *[name in religion Franciscus à Sancta Clara]* (c. 1595–1680); the minister in America, John Davenport (*bap.* 1597, *d.* 1670), born in Coventry the son of a merchant and alderman of that city, probably attended the free school; the clergyman and ejected minister, John Poynter, (1600–1684), whose mother was said to have ‘devoted him to the ministry from the womb’; the puritan clergyman, James Cranford (1602/3–1657), whose father was master of the free school; the lawyer and landowner, Sir Richard Newdigate, first baronet (1602–1678), who attended the school in 1617. The Warwickshire antiquary and herald Sir William Dugdale (1605–1686) was a pupil there between the ages of ten and fifteen.

Other pupils included the clergyman and ejected minister, Edward Bury (*bap.* 1616, *d.* 1700); Ralph Bathurst (1619/20–
1704), dean of Wells and president of Trinity College, Oxford; Richard Allestree (1621/2–1681), regius professor of divinity at Oxford and provost of Eton College, who was a pupil under Philemon Holland; the ejected minister and historian of dissent, Henry Sampson (c. 1629–1700), who was a pupil there under Phinehas White; the clergyman and ejected minister, Samuel Annesley (bap. 1620, d. 1696), of whom it was said (like John Poynter, above) that his 'parents dedicated him from the womb' to the ministry and that he read twenty chapters in the Bible every day from when he was about six; the nonconformist minister and religious controversialist, John Troughton (c. 1637–1681), born in Coventry the son of a clothier, and attended the school before gaining a scholarship at St John's College, Oxford; the nonjuring Church of England clergyman and religious controversialist, Samuel Grascome (1641–1708), who was baptized at Holy Trinity Church, Coventry, and was a pupil at the grammar school before proceeding to Cambridge; the presbyterian minister, Samuel Pomfret (1650?–1722), who was born in Coventry, received his early education at the grammar school and then at the academy of Obadiah Grew; the antiquary and clergyman, Samuel Carte (1652–1740), the son of a Coventry clothier, attended the school before proceeding to Oxford, later returning to Coventry as master of the school. The Old English scholar and librarian, Humfrey Wanley (1672–1726), son of the vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry, attended the school before being bound apprentice to a Coventry linen draper; the book collector, Nathaniel Crynes
(1685/6–1745), was a pupil there before proceeding to St John's College, Oxford.

**Coventry in the eighteenth century**

The theologian and Church of England clergyman, **William Parker** (*bap.* 1714, *d.* 1802), was baptized in Coventry, the son of a churchwarden of St Michael's, and the diplomatist and art collector, **Sir James Wright, first baronet** (*bap.* 1717, *d.* 1804), was probably baptized there, as his father is known to have been a Coventry resident. **John Brine** (1703–1765) spent four years from 1726 as pastor of the Baptist church in Coventry. **John Butterworth** (1727–1803) received an invitation from the Jordan Well Baptist Church in Coventry to be their minister and arrived in Coventry in 1752. Under his pastorship, the church's membership increased, and a new chapel was built in Cow Lane. His son and grandson became noted publishers. **John Griffith** (1714–1798) spent a brief time from 1778 to 1781 as minister of a new Independent congregation at West Orchard, Coventry. The Independent minister, **George Burder** (1752–1832), began his ministry at West Orchard Chapel, Coventry in 1783, opened two branch chapels and was the originator of Sunday schools in the town. He was a keen supporter of the London Missionary Society (some of its early missionaries were from his congregation) and was one of the founders of the Religious Tract Society. His son, **Thomas Harrison Burder** (1789–1843), born in Coventry, became a
physician. The Strict and Particular Baptist minister, William Gadsby (1773–1844), a ribbon weaver by early occupation, was converted at the age of seventeen and in 1793 he was baptized at Cow Lane Baptist Chapel, Coventry.

Other biographies reflect the varieties of civic life in eighteenth and early-nineteenth century Coventry. A leader figure was the linen draper, John Hewitt (1719-1802), who spent all his life in Coventry, served as mayor of three occasions, and was a magistrate for thirty years. He was zealous in prosecuting felons and transporting criminals, and was chiefly concerned to catch the Coventry gang of coiners. Among them was Thomas Lightowller (fl. 1741-1769), a carver by trade, employed for a time on the interior of Warwick Castle, but who moved to Coventry in 1753 where he traded as a carver while secretly counterfeiting gold and silver coins. Apprehended in Coventry in 1756, he betrayed his accomplices, and was himself discharged in 1757, eventually fleeing to Austria. Hewitt was probably the uncle of James Hewitt, first Viscount Lifford (d. 1789), later lord chancellor of Ireland, who was the son of a mercer and draper who was mayor of Coventry and MP for Coventry. Another lawyer, Samuel Carter (1805–1878), born in Coventry, was the grandson of a mayor of Coventry and the nephew of an attorney and town clerk of Coventry. The physician, John Ash (bap. 1722, d. 1798), baptized at St Michael's Church, Coventry, the son of a prosperous local brewer, was probably educated at King Henry VIII School, Coventry, before entering Trinity College, Oxford. The Church of England clergyman and schoolmaster, Thomas
Edwards (1729–1785) was born at Coventry and spent most of his life there. He was educated at the free grammar school and in 1758 was appointed master of his old school and rector of St John the Baptist, Coventry. The musician, Thomas Deane [Dean] (b. 1686/7), was organist of St Michael's, Coventry, from 1733 to 1749. The physician, Robert Bree (bap. 1758, d. 1839) attended King Henry VIII School in Coventry before entering University College, Oxford. The philologist and literary scholar, Walter Whiter (1758–1832) was at King Henry VIII Grammar School, Coventry, for ten years, under Dr Edwards, where Robert Bree MD was a fellow pupil.

The singer and actor, Joseph Vernon (c. 1738–1782), was born in Coventry illegitimately and grew up in the Coventry charity school. The playwright and puppet-master, Harry Rowe (1726–1799) also moved to Coventry at mid-century where he and his wife set up a match-making agency, which they advertised as 'an office for the encouragement of matrimony'. The actor and public lecturer, George Parke (1732–1800) made a meagre living in his final years selling gingerbread at fairs and race meetings. He died in Coventry poorhouse. The first recorded role of the actress, Sarah Siddons [née Kemble] (1755–1831), was Ariel in The Tempest in Coventry at the end of 1766.

The printer, Charles Whittingham (1767–1840), born at Caludon, near Coventry, Warwickshire, was apprenticed in 1779 to Richard Bird, printer and bookseller of Coventry. The printer and bookseller, Ann Rollason (1768/9–1846), had married Noah Rollason of
Coventry, a printer, bookseller, and proprietor of the *Coventry Mercury* and continued the business after his death ensuring that publication of the *Coventry Mercury* continued. She also built up a substantial business with multiple interests and retained possession and control of all the assets of the business until her death. The newspaper proprietor and topographer, **William Reader** (1782–1852), was in 1797 apprenticed to Noah Rollason, printer–proprietor of the *Coventry Mercury*. Admitted to the freedom of the city of Coventry in 1804, he played an active part in civic affairs, and rose in 1823 to the office of chamberlain. The designer and art teacher, **Samuel Lines** (1778–1863), was born at Allesley, near Coventry, the son of a woolcomber. His mother was mistress of a boarding-school. The publisher and politician, **Joseph Butterworth** (1770–1826), born in Coventry the son of the Baptist minister, attended Coventry Free School before being apprenticed to a harness plater at Birmingham. The law publisher, **Henry Butterworth** (1786–1860), was born in Coventry, the son of a wealthy timber merchant, and educated at the grammar school at Coventry.

**Ribbon weavers and freethinkers: the Coventry of George Eliot**

Between 1803 and 1826 Coventry was represented in parliament by **Peter Moore** (1753–1828), who defended the interests of the Coventry silk trade. The antiquary, **Thomas Sharp** (1770–1841), the son of a Coventry hatter, was born in a house in Smithford Street, Coventry, which bore the effigy of ‘Peeping Tom’. He was educated at
the free grammar school in Coventry and on his father's death, in 1784, he joined the family business. From youth Sharp devoted himself to the study of local antiquities and the Coventry city muniments. Born in Coventry, George Eld (1791–1862), who was the last mayor of Coventry to hold office (1834-5) before the reform of municipal corporations, encouraged the preservation and public appreciation of Coventry's ancient buildings and monuments, many of which he sketched himself. It was, however, an antiquary in the nearby town of Rugby, Matthew Holbeche Bloxam (1805–1888), who asserted that Godiva's nude canter through Coventry was pure invention.

The educationist and communitarian, Catherine Vale Whitwell (1789–1873), was from a nonconformist family and her father, a soap manufacturer, came from Coventry. She ran private schools, and was probably teaching in Coventry in about 1810. She outlined schemes for the education of girls, urging on parents the importance of education for their daughters. Two sisters, Mary Franklin (1800–1867) and Rebecca Franklin (1803-1873), born in Coventry, the daughters of the pastor of the Baptist Cow Lane Chapel, Coventry, turned to school-keeping as a means of financial support, opening a school in Coventry where they took boarders as well as day girls. Their pupils included Mary Anne Evans or Marian Evans [pseud. George Eliot] (1819–1880), the novelist, who boarded with them from 1832 to 1835. Until the age of thirty she lived in the Coventry area, first at a house off the road between Coventry and Nuneaton, and then, from the age of twenty-one, at Foleshill, on the
outskirts of Coventry. There she entered the radical, freethinking circle of the Bray family of Coventry, comprising Charles Bray (1811–1884), a wealthy ribbon manufacturer, a progressive in politics, and a philanthropist who used his wealth to set up schools and to support hospitals; his wife, Caroline Bray [née Hennell] (1814–1905), a former governess from a Unitarian family who wrote educational works for children; her sister, Sara Sophia Hennell (1812–1899), who settled with their mother in Coventry, and wrote works on religion and scepticism; and their brother, Charles Christian Hennell (1809–1850), also a religious writer. At the Brays’ Coventry home, Rosehill, Evans met the campaigner for women’s rights and journalist, Elizabeth Rayner [Bessie] Parkes [married name Belloc] (1829–1925), who was from a Birmingham family.

Contemporary with Evans’s early life in Coventry, Walter Farquhar Hook (1798–1875), was appointed vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry in 1828, arriving in a period of great economic distress among the textile workers of the town. From this point onwards Hook’s ministry combined spiritual revival with a strong social concern. The educationist and social reformer, John Watts (1818–1887), born in Coventry, the son of a ribbon weaver, was educated at Holy Trinity church school in Coventry, where he came under the influence of Hook, who left Coventry in 1837. In 1835 the radical politician, William Williams (1788–1865), was returned as one of the two members of parliament for Coventry in 1835, but lost his seat in 1847, mainly (it was said) because of complacency on the part of his supporters during the election. From 1842 the Roman
Catholic nun, Margaret Mary Hallahan [name in religion Margaret of the Mother of God] (1802–1868), taught in the school attached to the Catholic mission in Coventry. By 1844 she had attracted a group of local textile workers to assist her and transformed them into a community of Dominican sisters. The superior of the mission, William Ullathorne [name in religion Bernard] (1806–1889), later Roman Catholic bishop of Birmingham, gave support to the group and encouraged them to follow him to Bristol when he was appointed vicar apostolic of the western district. In 1845 the landscape gardener and architect, Sir Joseph Paxton (1803–1865), laid out the London Road cemetery in Coventry, where members of the Bray family, as well as several other people who have ODNB articles are buried, including the lion tamer, Ellen Eliza [Helen] Blight [Bright] (1833/4–1850), who was buried in the grave of her cousin, William Wombwell. In February 1847 the actress, Dame Ellen Alice Terry (1847–1928), was born in Coventry, where her parents, who were actors, were on tour. Born in Kenilworth, the son of a carpenter, the trade unionist George Potter (1832–1893), served an apprenticeship with a joiner in Coventry in the late 1840s, before leaving for London in 1853. The future bishop of Norwich John Sheepshanks (1834–1912), attended King Henry VIII grammar school, Coventry where his father, who was rector of St John’s, Coventry, was headmaster, before proceeding to Cambridge in 1853. The Unitarian minister and historian, Alexander Gordon (1841–1931), himself the son of a Unitarian minister, was born in Coventry. A prolific author, he
contributed 778 articles to the original DNB, published between 1885 and 1900.

In July 1847 the Coventry midwife Mary Ann Eaves [née Willis] (1805/6–1875), who was married to a silk weaver and lived in Spon, an area on the west side of Coventry, started the registers of her deliveries, which she kept for twenty-eight years. She had probably been apprenticed to a neighbour in Spon, and described herself as a ‘sworn midwife’. In 1850 she started to practise on behalf of the poor law union and the city’s two lying-in charities; in the fourteen years from 1851 to 1864, with the sole exception of 1862, she delivered over 200 women annually. The decline of the Coventry silk industry was recorded in the autobiography of Joseph Gutteridge (1816–1899), born in Coventry and apprenticed to learn the craft of ribbon weaving in about about 1829. He worked on improvements to the Jacquard loom for the manufacture of brocaded ribbons, was a pioneer of silk brocades in five colours for exhibition, and of portraits and views in silk. He was also a keen naturalist and presented his natural history collection to his native city in 1896. Francis Alfred Skidmore (1817–1896), whose father established a successful jewellers’ shop in Coventry, was indentured as an apprentice silversmith, before becoming a freeman of Coventry in 1841. He set up premises in Coventry making church plate and metal work, and became one of the most notable craftsmen in the country. In the mid-1860s the Scottish designer, Bruce James Talbert (1838–1881) took up a post in Coventry, designing silver and wrought-iron work for Skidmore’s Art Manufactures Company. His work included making
detailed drawings from Sir George Gilbert Scott’s designs for the
gates of the Albert Memorial and the screen in Hereford Cathedral,
one of the major exhibits of the 1862 International Exhibition. The
Ulster-born architect, James Murray (1831–1863), who had spent
some of his early professional life in Coventry, returned permanently
to Coventry in about 1859. His works were principally schools, shops,
villas, and churches in Coventry and the midlands, including the
Justice Rooms, Coventry, the corn exchange at Coventry and the
Coventry School of Art. The Coventry brothers, John Cash (1822–
1880), and Joseph Cash (1826–1880), served seven-year
apprenticeships with stuff merchants and so became entitled to
become freemen of the city, where they operated a silk ribbon-
making business from the early 1840s and built a factory equipped
with steam-powered looms. After the Anglo-French treaty of 1860
undermined the silk trade, they diversified into other fabric lines
(though the well-known Cash’s name-tapes were introduced only in
the early twentieth century, after their deaths, originally as labels for
manufacturers who wished to identify their products.). The barrister
and West Midlands MP, Alexander Staveley Hill (1825–1905), who
represented Coventry from 1868 to 1874, was notable as one of the
earliest supporters of the policy afterwards known as tariff reform,
pressing in 1869 for an inquiry on behalf of the silk weavers of
Coventry into the effect of the commercial treaty with France,
arguing the weakness of Great Britain’s position in endeavouring to
maintain a free-trade policy against the operation of foreign
tariffs. The industrial designer and local politician, William Andrews
(1835–1914), born in Coventry, was apprenticed in the ribbon trade to Messrs Bray in the designing department, and continued his studies at the Coventry Schools of Art and Design, before being appointed manager by Messrs Cash. After the French treaty, he maintained that only the ruthless efficiency of the factory system could save the industry, and began business on his own account in 1866, becoming president of the Coventry chamber of commerce in 1876–7, when a new trade treaty was being negotiated with France. In 1890 he gave up the business, declaring it solvent but unprofitable. He served on Coventry council from 1877 to 1895, campaigning successfully for a better water supply, irrigation, and sewage, and for the installation of gas supply and road widening. He used his knowledge of geology, archaeology, and natural habitat to modernize a medieval city constrained by its past. Elements of that past were depicted in the carvings executed by the London arts and crafts metalworker, Henry Wilson (1864–1934) for Coventry Council House (1912–1920).

Among others connected with Coventry in this period: the educationist, William Henry Herford (1820–1908) was born in Coventry into a leading Unitarian family; the borax manufacturer, Jesse Ascough (1823-1897), was born in Coventry, the son of a ribbon manufacturer, and went on to qualify as a master chemist; the naval officer, Godfrey Herbert, (1884–1961), naval officer, born in Coventry the son of a solicitor in Kenilworth, decided on a naval career as a child after seeing the fleet anchored in Spithead. The theologian and biblical scholar, Arthur Samuel Peake (1865–
1929), attended King Henry VIII Grammar School, Coventry, from
1877 before going up to St John's College, Oxford, in 1883, with a
classical scholarship. The composer and conductor, Edgar

Leslie Bainton (1880–1956) moved to Coventry shortly after his birth,
where he started learning the piano at the age of four and made his
first public appearance as a pianist at nine. At eleven he was awarded
a musical scholarship to King Henry VIII Grammar School in Coventry,
and at sixteen an open scholarship to the Royal College of Music,
London.

New industries: bicycles, motor vehicles, ball bearings, rayon,
aviation, and newspapers

The mechanical talent of bicycle manufacturer, James Starley (1831–
1881), was recognized at an early age, and in 1857 he moved to
Coventry where he and a partner formed the Coventry Sewing
Machine Company. He invented and patented many kinds of sewing
machines. In the late 1860s they moved into bicycle making, with
such success that the firm changed its name to the Coventry
Machinists Company. Starley's achievement was to make bicycles
popular and capable of general use; his business helped make
Coventry the centre of the UK cycle trade. He trained his nephew,

John Kemp Starley (1855–1901), who moved to Coventry in 1872 and
in 1878 founded his own bicycle manufacturing company, claiming to
be the inventor of the safety bicycle, with the key features of a
diamond frame, a rear acting crank, and equal size wheels. Other
inventors brought out similar designs around the same time and so Starley's claim has been disputed, but there is no doubt that his design was the best on the market. John Kemp Starley was a Liberal member of Coventry council, president of the Coventry YMCA, a school board member, and a supporter of the Salvation Army. His popularity and contribution to Coventry life was underlined by the 20,000 people estimated to have attended his funeral.

The bicycle designer and company promoter, Henry John Lawson (1852–1925), who became manager of the Tangent and Coventry Tricycle Company, made a design in 1879 that permits him to be classed with others, above all John Kemp Starley, as a progenitor of the modern safety bicycle which was central to the boom of the mid-1890s, though Lawson apparently did not to have plans to manufacture his own design, and went to become involved in company promotion in the motor car industry, notably the Daimler Motor Company, having acquired the Daimler patent rights in 1895. This proved to be Lawson's most significant acquisition and led to the foundation of the British motor industry, in the shape of the Daimler works at Coventry Motor Mills. In 1901 an American-born mechanical engineer, Percy Martin (1871–1958) was recruited as the Daimler works manager at Coventry, and made his home at Kenilworth. Martin’s technical and managerial skill helped to consolidate Daimler’s position. The Riley family (per. 1890–1969), of Coventry, bicycle and motor car manufacturers, were for several generations during the nineteenth century involved in the weaving trade in Coventry, but in 1890, William Riley (1851–1944) with his
uncle Herbert Riley and his brother-in-law Basil Riley, a tailor, entered the cycle manufacturing business by acquiring the nearby Bonnick Cycle Company. With his sons, (William) Victor Riley (1876–1958) and (William Herbert) Percy Riley (1880–1941) recognized a new opportunity, fitting engines to cycles to make motorcycles. A new company, Riley Motor Manufacturing, was set up to make automobiles in Coventry. A key part of Riley's reputation between the wars was based on the performance of its cars; as chairman and managing director, Victor Riley encouraged the use of the cars in reliability trials, speed tests, and races. From their earliest bicycles, Riley products were associated with quality rather than lowest cost and this focus served the company well right up to the final days of its independence. When the Riley company encountered financial difficulties, Viscount Nuffield bought it in 1939 mainly for its reputation and its name.

William Hillman (1848–1921) was among the trained engineers drawn into the expanding midlands industries. He joined Starley's Coventry Sewing Machine Company and subsequently the Coventry Machinists Company. In 1875 Hillman founded his own enterprise making cycles. The partnership of Hillman, Herbert and Cooper grew into the largest maker of bicycles and tricycles, with four plants in Coventry. Hillman's design of a ball-bearing making machine (1893), pioneered the mass production in Britain of ball and roller bearings. These activities made Hillman a millionaire. Hillman was later than many of his neighbours in the cycle-making trade to turn to motor manufacture, founding the Hillman–Coatalen Company in 1907. His
partner was the French-born designer of cars and aero-engines, Louis Hervé Coatalen (1879–1962), who became chief engineer with Humber at Coventry in 1900. In partnership with Hillman from 1907, Coatalen designed the 24 hp Hillman-Coatalen car. The bicycle manufacturer, Thomas Humber (1841–1910), gave his name to a newly formed public company in 1887, which had a manufacturing site at Coventry. The company later developed car manufacturing and in 1907 the whole company was concentrated in Coventry enabling Humber to become the second largest manufacturer of cars in the UK. The pneumatic tyre manufacturer (William) Harvey Du Cros (1846–1918), became joint managing director of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company with his son, Sir Arthur Philip Du Cros, first baronet (1871–1955). In 1893 manufacture had moved to Coventry, where they laid the foundations of the pneumatic tyre industry in England.

Cycle and automobile writer and promoter, (John James) Henry Sturmey (1857–1930), was originally a schoolmaster, but his passion for cycling brought him into contact with William Iliffe, of the Coventry family printing firm, for whom Sturmer edited a weekly periodical ‘Cyclist’ and made Coventry his adopted city. He subsequently edited the Iliffe periodical, Autocar. In 1902 Sturmey set up the British Duryea Company, which built under licence in Coventry for a few years. His contribution to cycling continued indirectly through the Sturmey-Archer three-speed hub gear, though he had little limited involvement in it. The Bavarian-born cycle and motor vehicle manufacturer, Siegfried Bettmann
(1863–1951) arranged for two Coventry firms to supply bicycles which were to carry Bettmann's own logo, Triumph, a name chosen because it sounded sufficiently English and superior to attract continental buyers. His firm moved into a modern factory in Priory Street, Coventry, and was floated in 1895 during the cycle boom. He moved into motorcycle production, producing a reliable model, the Triumph Trusty of 1904, made at the Priory Street works in Coventry. In the 1920s the Triumph company in Coventry moved into light car production with the Super Seven. The motor engineer, Tom Lawrence [Laurie] Williams (1890–1964), moved to Coventry in 1916 and applied his engineering talent for the Triumph Cycle Company, whose Model H motorcycle was the British army's choice for dispatch riders. He worked on Triumph's first fully chain-driven model, the 1920 SD, and himself patented gearbox and suspension designs, before moving to Tamworth in 1922.

Having moved to Coventry in about 1900 as works manager at the Coventry Ordnance Works during the South African War, William Edward Bullock (1877–1968) became in 1909 works manager at Singer & Co., originally a cycle manufacturer founded in Coventry in 1876 by George Singer (d. 1909), and which began successfully manufacturing small economy cars. Bullock became managing director in 1919 and developed mass production of small cars in Coventry, though moved production to Birmingham in the late 1920s. Having served a civil engineering apprenticeship, Reginald Walter Maudslay (1871–1934), moved to Coventry in 1902, where his cousin, Cyril Maudslay, was managing director of the nearby Maudslay Motor
Company. In 1903 Reginald Maudslay established the Standard Motor Company which by 1913 was one of Coventry’s largest motor manufacturers. During the First World War it diversified into airframes and aero-engines, acquiring a production site at nearby Canley. Standard experienced a number of problems in the 1920s, but the position was reversed in the 1930s and by 1939 Standard was one of the ‘Big Six’ motor manufacturers. Maudslay’s important legacy to the firm was a paternalistic and welfarist style of management which included the creation of a hardship fund for Standard workers and the provision of numerous recreational facilities at the Canley works. Among Maudslay’s achievements was to recruit Sir John Paul Black (1895–1965), who had joined the Hillman motor car marque in Coventry in 1919 becoming joint managing director, with Spencer Wilks. Their success led to Hillman’s being taken over by Rootes Ltd, a move which prompted both to resign in 1929. Black joined Standard and helped to restore its fortunes. He ended the costly in-house manufacture of components, started to introduce mass production techniques, and developed ideas for stylish and competitively priced models. During pre-war rearmament he took charge of two aero-engine ‘shadow’ factories, the second of which, at Banner Lane, was the largest in Coventry. After the war he successfully negotiated with the authorities to take over the two aero-engine ‘shadow’ factories. The Banner Lane facility provided an ideal venue for tractor production, with Black succeeding in his bid to link up with Harry Ferguson, and in 1944 Standard acquired the bankrupt Triumph Motor. The tractor
division sustained Standard-Triumph, but after becoming chairman in 1953 Black was forced out by the board. His relations with Henry George [Harry] Ferguson (1884–1960), the designer of agricultural machinery, had been an uneasy one.

Another figure with whom Black developed a business relationship was Sir William Lyons (1901–1985), who in 1928 had secured the lease to a site in Coventry where a former shell-filling factory was situated, and where he relocated his Swallow side-car and coach-building production. Lyons designed the successful SS 1 sports car and in 1935, having upgraded the performance of the Standard engines, Lyons selected the name ‘Jaguar’ to launch a new saloon, which was unveiled with a fanfare of publicity at London's Mayfair Hotel. At the end of the war, Jaguar Cars Ltd was born, and Lyons acquired the former Daimler shadow factory in Browns Lane, Coventry, which boasted 1 million square feet of production space. This provided a sound base from which to produce a succession of highly successful sports and saloon models, based on variants of the XK engine, including the E-Type Jaguar two-seater sports car and the XJ 6 saloon, which came closest to Lyons's ideal of the perfect car.

Malcolm Gilbert Sayer (1916–1970), who obtained a position with Jaguar Cars Ltd in Coventry in 1950, had a background in aerodynamics, and always insisted that he was an aerodynamicist rather than a designer. His E-type Jaguar, which made its debut at the Geneva Motor Show in March 1961, has regularly been acclaimed as
the most beautiful car in the world. The first holder of the scholarship founded by Sir John Black at Birmingham University, was Sir George Henry Turnbull (1926–1992), who was the son of an employee of the Standard Motor Company in Coventry, and had been educated at the King Henry VIII School, Coventry, before becoming the first apprentice engineer at Standard in 1941. Turnbull returned to Standard-Triumph after graduating in mechanical engineering at Birmingham, and went on to become general manager, a position he retained after the merger of Standard-Triumph and Leyland Motors in 1961. In 1979 he was appointed chairman and managing director of Chrysler UK, recently acquired by Peugeot, and in 1983 he was able to announce that Peugeot was to invest £20 million in building a new range of cars at the Ryton assembly plant in Coventry.

The industrialist, Sir Nicholas Vernon (Nick) Scheele (1944–2014), was sent in 1992 by Ford, which had acquired Jaguar, to Jaguar's Coventry headquarters as chairman and chief executive. Scheele stayed for seven years, transforming the company from near-collapse to global success. He was chancellor of the University of Warwick from 2002 to 2008.

Spencer Bernau Wilks (1891–1971), joined the Hillman Car Company of Coventry after the First World War, and became joint managing director with John Paul Black, while also strengthening his links with the business by marrying one of the daughters of the founder, William Hillman. In 1925 Wilks introduced a popular 14
hp car that substantially increased Hillman's market share. In 1929, after the Rootes takeover, he left to join another Coventry motor manufacturer, the Rover Company, as works manager and soon managing director, returning the company to profitability. His brother, Maurice Cary Ferdinand Wilks (1904–1963), also worked for the Hillman Motor Car Company in Coventry from 1922 to 1926, and again in 1928 as a planning engineer, before joining his brother at the Rover Company, where they both later became known for developing the Land Rover. In 1910 William Edward Rootes, first Baron Rootes (1894–1964), the son of a cycle and motor engineer, began a three-year apprenticeship with Singer Motors Ltd in Coventry, and then moved into sales, building up with his brother, Sir Reginald Claud Rootes (1896–1977), what became by the mid 1920s the largest motor distributor in Britain. They moved into manufacturing in 1929 when they acquired the Hillman and Humber factories in Coventry, planning new models with an export appeal. The Rootes factories suffered in the early air raids on Coventry and William Rootes became chairman of the Coventry industrial reconstruction and co-ordinating committee. His impact through the committee contributed greatly to Coventry's economic recovery.

After the war the Rootes Group acquired the former shadow factory at Ryton-on-Dunsmore, near Coventry, which they converted for the assembly of all the car models. In 1961 William Rootes became chairman of the promotion committee of the new University of Warwick which was founded in 1964 on a site on the south side of Coventry provided by the Coventry city council and the Warwickshire
county council. He instituted an appeal, the Foundation Fund of the University of Warwick, which became the most successful appeal of any of the new universities and by his urbane importuning of his industrial friends rapidly raised more than £1 million. The appeal ultimately raised nearly £4 million, but Rootes himself died shortly after the university’s inauguration, and before he could be installed as its first chancellor.

During the First World War, the motor engineer, Charles Richard Fox Engelbach (1876–1943) was put in charge of the howitzer department of the Coventry Ordnance Works. In 1915 George Thomas Smith-Clarke (1884–1960) joined the Aeronautical Inspection Directorate with responsibility for the inspection of all the thousands of aero engines manufactured in Coventry and elsewhere, and after the war was made chief engineer of Alvis Car and Engineering Ltd in Coventry. He was responsible for several fine cars in the 1930s, as well as military vehicles and aero engines when the Alvis company diversified into those areas in the years before the Second World War. In 1935 he became chairman of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital and, until his death, he played a significant part in local hospital issues. After retiring from Alvis, his main work was in developing equipment for artificial respiration, making significant improvements to existing mechanical ventilators. The engineer and motor vehicle manufacturer, John Henry Cawsey Dennis (1871–1939), who started in bicycle making but
moved to motor vehicles, acquired the White and Poppe engine company of Coventry in 1919 and built 102 houses to accommodate the workforce. **Leonard Percy [Len] Lord, Baron Lambury** (1896–1967) was born in Coventry and attended the Bablake School in Coventry, which had a strong technical emphasis, and later studied at evening classes. He joined the Coventry Ordnance Works for the duration of the First World War. In 1922 he moved to Hotchkiss in Coventry which made power units for Morris cars, and which was taken over and renamed Morris Engines. Also born in Coventry, **Sir George William Harriman** (1908–1973), became an apprentice at the Hotchkiss works, Gosford Street, where his father was a general foreman, and where he made the acquaintance of Leonard Lord. By 1938 Harriman was assistant works manager at the new Courthouse Green Morris Engines works in Coventry, and two years later Harriman followed Lord to the Longbridge, Birmingham, works of Austin. The motor engineer and designer, **Sir Alexander Arnold Constantine Issigonis** (1906–1988), worked at Humber in Coventry in 1934, as a technical draughtsman, and began experimental designs for independent front suspension, which he continued after joining Morris Motors in Oxford in 1936.

**John Young [Jack] Sangster** (1896–1977), the son of a Birmingham engineer, developed a motor quadricycle at a factory in Tyseley belonging to his father’s company. The design was taken over by the Rover Company in Coventry, and Rover gave Sangster a job in Coventry producing the car. In 1935 he bought the Triumph motorcycle business (not the car side) and its Priory
works in Coventry. After air raid in November 1940, a new works was built at Meriden on the edge of Coventry in 1942. Peace brought a modest expansion at Meriden and the firm went from strength to strength. Triumph produced 5000 motorcycles a year profitably, but sold the firm to BSA in 1951. In 1936 the motorcycle designer and manufacturer, Edward Turner (1901–1973), moved to Triumph in Coventry after it was purchased by Sangster. He introduced new concepts into motorcycle designed, rationalized the eighteen existing models, and generated new ideas that earned good profits. He was also an enthusiastic rider. He was badly affected by the bombing of Coventry, which destroyed the Triumph factory in 1940. He was managing director of Triumph from 1944 to 1956 and remained on the board until 1967. The racing motorcyclist, (Stanley) Michael Bailey Hailwood (1940–1981), was sent by his father to work at Triumph motorcycles near Coventry.

In 1909 John Davenport Siddeley, first Baron Kenilworth (1866–1953), began his working life designing bicycles. He became managing director of the struggling Deasy Motor Car Manufacturing Company in Coventry and so transformed its position that the marque was renamed Siddeley-Deasy. The war was the making of the company, leading first to government orders for lorries and motor cars and then, most significantly, to aero-engine and airframe production. Siddeley persuaded the directors to sanction a move into the aviation field. Siddeley’s engineers resolved the teething
problems of the Beardmore-Halford-Pullinger aero-engine and it became the Siddeley Puma; it proved so reliable that it was the principal design in use by British bombers at the war’s conclusion. In 1937 he purchased Kenilworth Castle and the same year was created Baron Kenilworth. He was succeeded as second baron by his son Cyril (1894–1971), who in 1958 presented Kenilworth Castle to the local council, which transferred responsibility for its upkeep to English Heritage in 1984. The aeronautical engineer, Hilda Margaret Lyon (1896–1946), spent a year as a technical assistant in the aeroplane design office of the Siddeley-Deasy Company, Coventry, from 1918 to 1919. The aeronautical engineer and inventor of the jet engine, Sir Frank Whittle (1907–1996), was born in Earlsdon, Coventry, where his father expected to find greater scope for his inventive gifts. His father bought a small engineering business in Leamington Spa, and the young Frank learned the rudiments of engineering manufacture by working in the factory when he was ten years old. Also born in Coventry, the aeronautical engineer, Adrian Albert Lombard (1915–1967), was the son of a toolmaker, and was educated in Coventry at the John Gulson Central Advanced School and afterwards in evening classes at the Technical College. In 1930 he joined the Rover Company, beginning his training in the drawing office. He left in 1935 to join Morris Motors where, still only twenty years old, he was in charge of engine stress calculations. In 1936 he returned to the Rover Company and later became part of the design team in Coventry under Maurice Wilks which in 1940 was
given the task of making the Whittle W2B jet engine ready for production.

The machine tool manufacturer Sir Alfred Edward Herbert (1866–1957), who had trained as a turner, fitter, and draughtsman in Leicester, migrated to Coventry in 1887, where he went into partnership making machine tools and tubing directed at the cycle trade. By the turn of the century, Alfred Herberts was the largest machine tool company in Coventry, employing over 800 men, a figure that moved to 1500 in 1910, before increasing to 2400 in 1920, 3500 in 1930, and finally to 3800 in 1938, making Herberts the largest machine tool firm in the world by volume of employment. He promoted the idea of high-quality apprenticeships to the extent that to have been a Herberts apprentice was a hallmark of quality training. Herbert exercised considerable generosity to his adopted city, including a donation of £200,000 for the construction of a new art gallery and museum, named after him. The industrialist Henry Greenwood Tetley (1851–1921) persuaded his fellow directors that Samuel Courtauld & Co. should buy the patent rights to the new viscose process, a British invention for making what was then called artificial silk and later became known as rayon, the first successful man-made fibre. In July 1904 the patents were bought for approximately £25,000. Tetley made it clear to the board that the aim was to find a new source of profits for the company. To that end a new factory was set up, in Coventry. Sundry teething problems,
technical and managerial, were overcome, and the profitability that followed was remarkable: a 6 per cent dividend in 1904 had become 30 per cent in 1911 and 50 per cent in 1912. The electrical engineer, **Arthur Primrose Young** (1885–1977), developed the production of magnetos at the Coventry works of the British Thomson-Houston Co. Ltd (BT-H) in the First World War. He was appointed acting manager of the Coventry works in 1921, and manager and engineer in the following year. Production increased fourfold in 1921–3, the range extending to radio and gramophone equipment, electric motors, timing controls, magnetos, and lighting systems for vehicles. It was at Coventry that Young developed the management principle of unified team effort with a common goal. His management principles may appear simplistic to later generations, but his emphasis on the human element was an important corrective to more mechanistic systems. He advised such prominent industrialists as Sir Alfred Herbert.

The newspaper and periodical proprietor, **Edward Mauger Iliffe, first Baron Iliffe** (1877–1960), was born in Coventry into a family which had founded a stationery, wallpaper, and printing business. The Iliffes were pillars of the local community, not least in their enthusiasm for civic politics and evangelism. Iliffe’s father appreciated that late Victorian Coventry was at the heart of a revolution in engineering, and thus the ideal place from which to pioneer specialist transport magazines intended for a mass
market. *The Cyclist* (1878) was so successful that it absorbed two rivals and moved to London as *Bicycling News*. *Autocar* followed in 1895 and *Flight* in 1909. Iliffe joined the family firm at seventeen and served his proprietorial apprenticeship on the new *Coventry Evening Telegraph*. He donated £35,000 towards the new Coventry Cathedral, and gave Allesley Hall, on the western edge of Coventry to the city council in the late 1930s for recreational use. The journalist and newspaper proprietor, **Alfred Charles William Harmsworth, Viscount Northcliffe** (1865–1922) moved to Coventry in 1885, where he worked for Iliffe & Sons, a publishing house which owned the *Midland Daily Telegraph* and *Bicycling News*. The aviation writer, **Charles Grey Grey** (1875–1953) joined the Swift Cycle Company in Coventry as a draughtsman and married the daughter of a Coventry watchmaker. He switched to journalism and joined E. M. Iliffe's paper, *The Autocar*. The motoring artist, **(Thomas) Frederick Gordon Crosby** (1885–1943), worked as a draughtsman in the drawing offices at the Vauxhall and Daimler companies in Coventry before in 1907 joining the periodical *Autocar*, which was then based in Coventry. He married the daughter of a Coventry watch finisher. The journalist, **(Norman) Keith Whetstone** (1930–2002), was the son of a journalist from Nuneaton who was on the staff of the *Midland Daily Telegraph*, and became editor of the *Coventry Standard*, the company's weekly title. Whetstone attended King Henry VIII Grammar School, Coventry, where his great love was rugby union, and became a young journalist on the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*. 
Public life: trade unionists, women activists, and newspapers

The trade unionist, socialist, and communist Thomas [Tom] Mann (1856–1941), was born at Foleshill, Coventry, where his father was a bookkeeper at the Victoria colliery. He began work at the age of nine on the Victoria colliery farm, and stayed for a year before going down the pit, where he kept ventilation shafts clear. After fire closed the mine in 1870, he moved with his parents to Birmingham. George Edward Hodgkinson (1893–1986), moved to Coventry in 1914, where he worked as a turner and became the leading shop steward at the Radford Daimler factory. In 1923 he began work as the full-time Coventry Labour Party agent, transforming the local party and establishing women's sections. James Larkin [Jack] Jones (1913–2009) was appointed in 1939 full-time district organizer of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) in Coventry. There he set about establishing his reputation as a union official of unusual organizing ability and vision and laid the foundation of his reputation as a proponent of 'shop-floor power'. He helped to build a powerful trade union force in which shop stewards enjoyed unusual power and TGWU membership in Jones’s district increased from 3000 to 40,000 during his period as district secretary. Charles Henry [Harry] Urwin (1915–1996), began his working life as a coal miner in Durham but after three years underground he felt the need to 'escape the dust' and migrated to Coventry, finding work as a
welder in the machine tool trade, serving the burgeoning local car industry. There he joined the TGWU, became a shop steward, and in 1947 became a full-time union official. Seven years later he succeeded Jack Jones as secretary of the Coventry district. Ernest Alfred Cecil Roberts (1912–1994), moved to Coventry when he was young, and for the next twenty-five years he worked as a fitter in some of the city's biggest firms. He soon joined the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW; later the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and later still the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union) and became active as a shop steward. In 1944 he was elected district president for Coventry. He served as an active Coventry city councillor from 1949 to 1957.

The housewife and diarist Clara Emily Milburn [née Bagnall] (1883–1961) was born in Coventry, and married an engineer who worked with her brother Frank at the Coventry factory of Alfred Herbert Ltd. She was a stalwart member of the Women's Institute, a friend of Coventry Cathedral, and offered her services to the Women's Voluntary Service. Her wartime diary, begun in February 1940 and kept for five years, records the experience of the home front as experienced in Burleigh, six miles west of Coventry. The leader of women's voluntary work and politician, Pearl Marguerite Hyde (1904–1963), moved to Coventry in 1920 where she learned the family trade as a pub licensee. She joined the Labour Party in 1931 and was finally elected to the council for the Walsgrave ward in 1937.
She made her name in the Coventry blitz as leader of the local Women's Voluntary Service (WVS), depicted in the 1941 film, *Heart of Britain*. She became Coventry's first woman lord mayor in 1957. The politician, (Frances) Elaine Burton, Baroness Burton of Coventry (1904–1991, a schoolteacher, was elected Labour MP for Coventry South in 1950. Though she personally hated housework and cooking she became the housewives' voice in parliament, making her an authority on consumer protection. In 1955 she delivered a political broadcast on value for money. She championed Coventry's needs, particularly its employment problem, but in 1959 she was defeated. She returned to parliament on her creation as Baroness Burton of Coventry in April 1962. The politician and trade unionist Audrey Wise [née Brown] (1932–2000), entered parliament as MP for Coventry South West in February 1974. Re-elected in 1976, in June of the following year she co-authored the successful Rooker–Wise amendment to Denis Healey's Finance Bill. The amendment, her best-known parliamentary act and a startling example of back-bench determination, ensured that personal tax allowances were inflation-proofed by linking them to the retail price index. The politician Marjorie [Mo] Mowlam (1949–2005), moved to Coventry, aged eleven, and went to Coundon Court comprehensive school, Coventry, where she excelled. She went on to become head girl, as well as being an outstanding netball player and winning a duke of Edinburgh's award. In 1968 she progressed to Durham University, where she read social anthropology.
Members of Parliament for Coventry included the novelist, **Alfred Edward Woodley Mason** (1865–1948), who sat for five years (1906–10); the Nobel prizewinner, **Philip John Noel-Baker, Baron Noel-Baker** (1889–1982), who sat from 1929 to 1931; **Richard Howard Stafford Crossman** (1907–1974), who held Coventry East from 1945 to 1974; and **(Israel) Maurice Edelman** (1911–1975), who represented Coventry West from 1945 until 1950; Coventry North from 1950 to 1974; and Coventry North West 1974 until 1975; and **Audrey Wise** (see above).

**Modern Coventry: writers, music, sport, heritage, and urban planning**

The children's writer, **Angela Brazil** (1868–1947) moved with her brother to Coventry in 1911, where their sister joined them after their mother's death in 1915. They remained together in Coventry for the rest of their lives, joining fully in the social and cultural activities of the city and attending St Michael's Church. The author and environmentalist, **Nancy Mary [Nan] Fairbrother** (1912–1971) was born in Coventry, went to school there, and always regarded herself as a city child. After the First World War the family moved to the Coventry suburbs, where her father ran a grocer's business and she was able to have her own small garden. The novelist and essayist, **Edward Morgan Forster** (1879–1970) spent his final weeks in Coventry, where he died. His ashes were scattered on the rose bed in Coventry's crematorium.
The organist and composer Sir (Alfred) Herbert Brewer (1865–1928), was appointed in 1886 to St Michael’s, Coventry (afterwards Coventry Cathedral); he rebuilt the organ (with the help of Henry Willis), and reorganized the Coventry Choral Society. The teacher, literary scholar, and music critic, John Barry Steane (1928–2011), was born in Coventry, the son of a grocer. He attended Earlsdon primary school and King Henry VIII School, Coventry, at the age of ten, soon afterwards gaining admission to Coventry Cathedral choir. When the cathedral was destroyed by German bombs on the night of 14 November 1940, the singers had to remove to nearby Holy Trinity, where Steane studied organ under the choirmaster, Harold Osmond.

The historian and conservationist, Levi Fox (1914–2006), was appointed Coventry's first archivist in 1938, and he established Coventry's record office. Following the devastating air raids on Coventry in 1940 he was tasked with supervising food distribution in the city, where some 60,000 people had been made homeless. Scouring the bombed cellars of offices in the city centre for archives, he was credited with saving a lot of extremely important Coventry records for posterity. The sculptor and graphic artist, Georg Ehrlich (1897–1966), was commissioned in 1944 by the city of Coventry to make a memorial to the victims of air raids; his figure Pax (1944–5) is in the city's Garden of Rest. The poet, John Harold Hewitt (1907–1987), was director of the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry from 1957 to 1972.
The cricketer and Church of England clergyman John Henry Parsons (1890–1981), attended Bablake School in Coventry. There he became captain of cricket and football before finding employment at the Humber car factory in the city, where he became a car tester. Footballing and cricketing performances on the sports field led to trials with both Coventry City Football Club and Warwickshire County Cricket Club, where he went on to accept professional terms, abandoning a career in the prosperous car industry. Robert Elliott Storey Wyatt (1901–1995), went to King Henry VIII School, Coventry, and on leaving school in 1918 he obtained a position as an engineering trainee in the repair shops of the Rover Motor Company, but in 1923 was invited to play for the Warwickshire first eleven, which marked the beginning of his county career. Thomas William [Tom] Cartwright (1935–2007) was born in Coventry, the son of a transport driver for a motor company and attended Foxford School, an elementary school in Coventry, until the age of fifteen, when he began work at the Rootes car factory, admiring the skills and the dedication of the craftsmen who hand-built cars like the Humber Pullman. In 1952 Cartwright joined the staff of Warwickshire County Cricket Club. The professional footballer, football manager, and sports broadcaster, James William Thomas (Jimmy) Hill (1928–2015) became manager of Third Division Coventry City in 1961. With the backing of his chairman, Hill introduced a number of innovations and changes to the club which have since been referred to as the ‘Sky-Blue Revolution’. In what were viewed as radical moves at the time, he brought in a charter train for fans to travel to away matches;
pre-match and half-time entertainment on the pitch; a ‘Sky-Blue’
radio station and glossy match-day programme; the first electronic
scoreboard in a football stadium; closed-circuit-television coverage of
a match to fans in the stadium; and ‘pop and crisps’ nights when
players handed out free snacks to young fans and signed autographs.
The innovations were all part of the family-centred experience Hill
wanted to create at football. In 1975 Hill returned to Coventry City as
managing director of the club, and then chairman from 1976, a role
he kept until 1983. The banker, Sir Derek Alan Higgs (1944–2008)
was the son of the head of a building business, involved in the
rebuilding of Coventry after the immense damage done to the city
during the Second World War. He was also a supporter of Coventry
City Football Club, of which he was a director (from 1996 to 2008),
and for whose Ricoh Arena he persuaded his father's trust to provide
crucial funding.

In 1938 Sir Donald Edward Evelyn Gibson (1908–1991), was
appointed to the new post of city architect. After
the Luftwaffe's destructive raid on Coventry in November 1940 he
with his depleted wartime staff now embarked on a radical rebuilding
plan for Coventry's centre. The key elements were a ring road and a
pedestrianized shopping centre—the first proposed in Europe, and
audacious in a car-manufacturing city. In the post-war
years Gibson's expanded department undertook an ambitious
building programme for Coventry's suburbs, constructing a vast
acreage of housing and schools. The shopping centre at Tile Hill was to attract much notice. In the centre, things were harder and, increasingly frustrated by obstructions to Coventry's architectural progress, he resigned in 1955. His senior assistant architect, appointed in 1938, was Percy Edwin Alan Johnson-Marshall (1915–1993), who helped to organize a notable exhibition, ‘Coventry of Tomorrow’, in summer 1940, which aimed to introduce the city’s inhabitants to the idea of urban planning. The architect, Arthur George Ling (1913–1995), replaced Donald Gibson as city architect and planning officer for Coventry. The overall shape of the reconstruction plan, including the pedestrianized central precinct, was already decided, but Ling’s tenure left a lasting impact especially through the redevelopment of the Hillfields Comprehensive Development Area (CDA) and designs for the twenty-storey Mercia House in the Lower Precinct and for what became the Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre. He was also responsible for initiating a more modernistic approach to the design of the built environment, introducing tower blocks to increase the city’s vertical dimension and adding an aesthetic that employed both bare concrete and bold colour. Sir Wilfred Burns (1923–1984), joined Coventry council as an assistant planning officer in 1949, under Donald Gibson and in 1955 he was appointed head of the planning division by Arthur Ling. Burns guided the implementation of the city’s five-year rolling programme of work in the central area. Coventry was internationally recognized as being at the forefront of post-war planning thought. Burns, in common with many, saw what had been achieved
at Coventry in the 1950s—especially through traffic management and pedestrianization—as both a test bed and prototype for the redevelopment of other English cities in the 1960s. Frederick [Fred] Bernard Pooley (1916–1998), moved in 1951 to Coventry, where he served as deputy city architect and planning officer to Donald Gibson. In both planning and politicking, Pooley proved a capable lieutenant to Gibson. He helped build the country’s most influential pedestrian shopping precinct, and introduced concrete high-rise blocks in the neighbourhood of Tile Hill.

**Education in modern Coventry**

Among those educated in modern Coventry, the economist, George Cyril Allen (1900–1982), the son of a dispatch foreman at the Humber motor works, Coventry, was educated at King Henry VIII School, Coventry (c.1911–18), and the University of Birmingham (1918–21), where he was a student in the faculty of commerce. The mathematician, Edward Thomas Copson (1901–1980), born in Coventry, was educated at King Henry VIII School, Coventry, before proceeding to St John’s College, Oxford. The geologist, Frederick William Shotton (1906–1990), geologist, born in Exhall, near Coventry, the son of the manager of the Albion Drop Forging Company of Coventry, was educated at Bablake School in Coventry.
The architect and town planner, Sir Frederick Ernest Gibberd (1908–1984), born in Coventry, the son of a shopkeeper who ran a gentleman's outfitters at Earlsdon, was educated at the King Henry VIII School in Coventry. The chemist and university administrator, John Wilfrid [Jack] Linnett (1913–1975), the son of the works accountant in the Rover car company, was born in Coventry and was educated at King Henry VIII School, Coventry (1919–31), from where he won the Sir Thomas White scholarship to St John's College, Oxford. The humorist, Paul Francis Jennings (1918–1989), born in Leamington Spa, was brought up in Coventry, where his father was organist and choirmaster to a Roman Catholic parish. He won a scholarship to the King Henry VIII School at Coventry. The poet, writer, and librarian, Philip Arthur Larkin (1922–1985), was born in Radford, Coventry, the son of the city treasurer of Coventry, and was educated at King Henry VIII School, Coventry (1930–40), before going up to St John's College, Oxford. The German scholar, Siegbert Salomon Prawer (1925–2012), born into a in Cologne into a Polish-German Jewish family, escaped from Nazi Germany on the eve of the war and settled with a family in Coventry and attended King Henry VIII Grammar School, where he became a highly motivated pupil and could feel himself 'part of an institution respected and fostered by city and state' (unpublished memoir). He would later recognize his deep need for such sheltering environments after the early upheavals. After the massive air raid on Coventry in November 1940 the school was moved to Alcester, and the refugee became an evacuee, though fortunate in his host family. The radio broadcaster
and actor, **Brian Matthew** (1928–2017), born in Coventry the son of a car and motorcycle mechanic and a factory worker, was raised in a musical household. His mother was a contralto, while his father was the conductor of the City of Coventry Band. He himself learned the trombone. He was educated at the Centaur Road School and then Bablake School, Coventry. The actress, **Elizabeth Jean Spriggs** [née Williams] (1929–2008), actress, was at Wheatley Street High School for Girls in Coventry, and studied opera at the Royal School of Music. Bronchial asthma prevented her from becoming a singer, and she went on to teach music and drama at Coventry Technical College. The medical journalist, **Antony John Smith** (1934–2008), was born in Coventry, where both parents worked in Jaguar’s Browns Lane car factory. He won a scholarship to Bablake Grammar School and then to University College, Oxford. The medical physicist, **Peter Neil Temple Wells** (1936–2017), began a five-year student apprenticeship with GEC Ltd in Coventry and the College of Advanced Technology in Birmingham in 1954. This led to the award of his first degree, in electrical engineering, in 1958. The publisher, **(Arthur) John Harvey Blackwell** (1937–1997), born in Coventry, was educated at King Henry VIII Grammar School, Coventry. The composer, **Delia Ann Derbyshire** (1937–2001), was born in Coventry, the daughter of a sheet metal worker in a motor car factory. She later made the link between her upbringing in blitz-ravaged Coventry, with its wailing air-raid sirens, and her lifelong fascination with sound, but piano lessons provided her with a more traditional musical base. She attended Coventry grammar school, and
went on to Girton College, Cambridge, to read mathematics, before switching to music; her fascination with the relationship between these two subjects underpinned her subsequent composing career. The mountaineer, Julian Vincent [Mo] Anthoine (1939–1989), enrolled at Coventry College of Education, where he completed his certificate in education in 1967. The campaigner for the rights of disabled people, Sir Herbert William [Bert] Massie (1949–2017), took A-levels at Hereward College in Coventry. The cell biologist and cancer researcher Christopher John [Chris] Marshall (1949–2015) grew up in Coventry, where his father became a works manager in the Massey-Ferguson tractor factory. His family did not have a tradition of science or academic scholarship, and Marshall’s fascination with science was kindled when he attended the King Henry VIII School in Coventry. From there he won a scholarship to study natural sciences at Churchill College, Cambridge.

The Church of England clergyman and theologian, Eric Lionel Mascall (1905–1993) was senior mathematics master at Bablake School in Coventry but in 1931 decided to offer himself for ordination. The international relations scholar, William Frank [Bill] Gutteridge (1919–2008) was head of the department of languages and modern studies at Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry, from 1963 to 1971 and became established as an authority on post-colonial Africa. Jack Reginald Worsley (1923–2003), born in Coventry the son of a tool maker, left school aged fourteen to work in the Standard motor car
factory in Coventry, and used his evenings to pursue studies in physiotherapy and continue his study of naturopathy and osteopathic medicine. Wartime experience motivated him to learn the art of Chinese acupuncture, and in 1960 he founded the College of Traditional Acupuncture (UK), the first school of acupuncture in England, which later had new premises in Leamington Spa. The teacher and theatre director, *(Philip) Richard Henry Tomlinson* (1943–2006), taught at Hereward College for the Disabled in Coventry, where he began a series of drama workshops, and developed shows which explored the stories of the cast and their experiences of being disabled. *Ready Salted Crips* (1974 toured Warwickshire, performing in schools, colleges, and amateur dramatic groups as well as in Coventry Cathedral and at Warwick University. The educationist, *Kathleen Tattersall* (1942–2013) was from 2008 the chair and chief regulator of the newly established Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation (Ofqual), which moved from London to Coventry.

In addition, there are lives of people in these fields who were born in Coventry, but moved and were educated elsewhere. The political organizer, *James [Jim] Cattermole*, (1910–2007), was born in Coventry, the son of a leather worker and saddler, but went to school in Birmingham. The writer and literary reviewer *Cyril Vernon Connolly* (1903–1974), was born in Coventry because his army officer father was stationed there. The pianist and composer, *Denis*
James Matthews (1919–1988) was born in Coventry, the only child of a director of the Norman Engineering Company at Leamington Spa. The wine writer, Pamela Joan Vandyke-Price (née Pamela Joan Walford) (1923–2014) was born in Coventry, the daughter of a manager in a clock- and watch-manufacturing firm. The army officer, Sir Anthony Heritage Farrar-Hockley (1924–2006), was born in Coventry, where his parents were then resident. The actor, Sir Nigel Barnard Hawthorne (1929–2001) was born in Coventry, the son of a medical doctor, but left aged three when the family emigrated to South Africa.

Coventry Cathedral

In 1951 the architect, Sir Basil Urwin Spence (1907–1976) won the competition to rebuild the cathedral at Coventry which had been reduced to a shell by incendiary bombs in 1940. By the time Coventry Cathedral was consecrated by the queen in 1962, he had become a household name. The architect, (Romano Lionel) Roland Joseph Paoletti (1931–2013), was an assistant to Spence on his commission to design the new cathedral. The civil and structural engineer, Povl Borge Ahm (1926–2005) joined the consulting engineers Ove Arup & Partners in 1952, a year after the firm had been appointed to work with Basil Spence on the new Coventry
Cathedral. Spence's winning competition design had been developed without engineering advice, so Ahm and Ove Arup were called upon to devise a structure that would preserve the integrity of his initial concept. The civil engineer, Sir Edmund Frank Ley Happold (1930–1996), worked for Ove Arup & Partners and helped to design the cathedral.

The success of Spence’s design owed much to the works of art which were incorporated into the building: in 1952 Graham Vivian Sutherland (1903–1980), accepted a commission to design the huge tapestry Christ in Glory for the new Coventry Cathedral; John Egerton Christmas Piper (1903–1992) was commissioned to design the huge baptistery window (1957–62), an abstract pattern of light; Sir Jacob Epstein (1880–1959), undertook the bronze sculpture, St Michael and the Devil (1956–8); Dame Elisabeth Jean Frink (1930–1993) made the eagle lectern; Richard Drew [Dick] Russell (1903–1981) designed the chair; Hans Joachim Coper (1920-1981) made the candlesticks; Geoffrey Cyril Petts Clarke (1924–2014), undertook three of the ten nave stained-glass windows; Ralph Alexander Beyer (1921–2008) contributed monumental letters cast in bronze set into the cathedral floor, a typeface for signs and notices, and the eight nave inscriptions. (Edward) Benjamin Britten, Baron Britten (1913–1976), composed in 1961 the War Requiem for the re-consecration of Coventry Cathedral and the organist and conductor, (Albert) Meredith Davies (1922-2005) had perhaps his greatest triumph in
May 1962 when he conducted the main orchestra, choir, and soprano soloist at the première of Britten’s work. Sir Arthur Edward Drummond Bliss (1891–1975) was also commissioned to produce a choral work, *The Beatitudes* (1961) for the occasion. The episcopalian priest, Kenyon Edward Wright (1932–2017) joined the staff of Coventry Cathedral in 1971 as director of the Centre for Urban Studies, and became Coventry’s first director of international ministry in 1974.

**University of Warwick**

The horse-racing administrator and air force officer, John Henry Peyto Verney, twentieth Baron Willoughby de Broke (1896–1986), lord lieutenant of Warwickshire from 1939 until his retirement in 1967, was an energetic local leader and was much concerned with the rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral and the establishment of Warwick University. In 1963 John Blackstock [Jack] Butterworth, Baron Butterworth (1918–2003) became founding vice-chancellor of the University of Warwick, one of a number of new universities created in the early 1960s. Perhaps the most striking aspect of Butterworth’s vision for the new university was his insistence that teaching should go hand in hand with leading-edge research (an idea
which would later become commonplace, but which at the time was unusual), thus establishing from the outset Warwick's vocation as a centre of academic excellence. It was widely acknowledged that he was an excellent judge of academic talent, and many of his appointments went on to become internationally renowned experts in their own fields. John Macgregor Bruce Lockhart (1914–1995) was in charge of planning development at the new University of Warwick from 1965 to 1967, and the lawyer and public servant, Cyril John Radcliffe, Viscount Radcliffe (1899–1977), chairman of a series of public inquiries, became the first chancellor of the University of Warwick in 1966.

Donald Geoffrey Charlton (1925–1995) was appointed in 1963 to the chair of French at the new University of Warwick, which was planned to open in 1964. This gave him the opportunity to put into practice his ideas for a much wider programme of French studies than the exclusive concentration on language and literature then characteristic of modern language syllabuses, with opportunities to study French political and social history, philosophy, art, and soon cinema. In 1964 Sir John Rigby Hale (1923–1999) accepted the founding chair of history at the new University of Warwick. Over a period of five years he created a history department with a strong emphasis on European and American history, and a syllabus which involved undergraduates in studying abroad both in American universities and in Venice, where he established a Warwick Renaissance programme. The literary scholar, George Kirkpatrick Hunter (1920–2008) was offered a professorship at the
University of Warwick in 1964 and free rein to develop the curriculum, he created a department of English and comparative literary studies that was socially diverse and based on an innovative programme that saw the European epic (from Homer to Milton) as its foundation and Shakespeare (taught as a jobbing playwright, writing for performance) as its climax. In 1965 the historian, writer, and political activist, Edward Palmer Thompson (1924–1993), became director of the Centre for the Study of Social History at the newly opened University of Warwick and the family moved to Leamington Spa. His Warwick experience was mixed. Thompson's final quarrel with the university's authorities was a public one when, in 1970, he edited a critical volume, which situated Warwick as symptomatic of a threatened higher educational system in which values and freedoms were being lost in an increasing subordination to the requirements of industrial capitalism.

The computer scientist John Noel Buxton (1933–2009), was asked in 1967 to apply for a newly established chair at Warwick University, and became, at thirty-four, the youngest professor of computer science in the country. At Warwick he founded the department from scratch, designing degree courses and planning research. He wanted a well-balanced department with theoretical computer science well represented as a counterbalance to his own interests in languages and software engineering. Also in 1967, Hugh Armstrong Clegg (1920–1995) was appointed founding professor of industrial relations at Warwick University, where he soon displayed his talents as an academic entrepreneur. Long into retirement, he kept in touch with
his creation, the most respected centre of his favourite studies in the
country, cycling in from Kenilworth whenever he could. The industrial
conciliator, who had been chairman of the Motor Industries Joint
Labour Council, **Sir (Athelstan) Jack Scamp** (1913–1977) became
associate professor of industrial relations at Warwick University (and
also held the chairmanship of Coventry City Football Club).
The socialist and industrial relations expert, **Allan David Flanders**
(1910–1973) joined the department in 1971 as reader in industrial
relations. In 1970 the sociologist of race relations and South African-
born opponent of apartheid, **John Arderne Rex** (1925–2011) became
professor of sociology and from 1974 to 1979 was associate director
of the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations at Warwick. In 1971 the
microbiologist, **Sir Howard Dalton** (1944–2008) accepted the offer of
a lectureship in microbiology at the department of biological
sciences, newly established by Roger Whittenbury, at the University
of Warwick. During his time at Warwick, Dalton established a large
research group, pioneering work on two fascinating enzymes
catalysing the oxidation of methane by bacteria. He was seconded to
become chief scientific adviser to the Department for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in 2002, a role in which he sought to
instil scientific rigour into policy-making decisions. He led the
scientific advisory team generating the UK contingency plan for
dealing with avian influenza virus, and was instrumental in raising the
profile of climate change as a significant threat. The microbiologist
and weapons inspector, **David Christopher Kelly** (1944–2003), spent
three years (1971-3) at the University of Warwick, working on the
multiplication of influenza virus. In 1973 the film critic, Robert Paul [Robin] Wood (1931–2009) secured the newly created position of lecturer in film studies at Warwick University, which involved negotiating developments in the fledgling discipline (that in Britain had involved importation of French semiotics and film theory indebted to Hegel, Marx, and Freud) at the same time as he was trying to think through the implications for his criticism of a gay identity acknowledged with increasing openness.

In 1974 the sociologist, Margaret [Meg] Stacey [née Petrie] (1922–2004), was appointed the first woman professor at the University of Warwick. Always a natural leader, once at Warwick she moved progressively into a leadership position in the discipline of sociology within the UK. Her academic interest in the sociology of gender was another area where she exerted great influence both intellectually and professionally. She left an enduring mark on the position of women in the discipline through her willingness to work actively to secure a better gender balance, including through mentoring and support for younger women colleagues. She always refused to be called an ‘exceptional woman’, a concept she regarded as a failure of solidarity with other women. In 1975 the political scientist, John Frederick [Jack] Lively (1930–1998), was appointed professor of politics at the University of Warwick. His most widely read book, Democracy (1975), identified the most significant ends that democracy might promote as the general interest, the common good, liberty, and participation. In retrospect these can be seen as the values Lively sought to explore and explain throughout his work.
The role in universities of the physicist, Sir (Francis) Arthur Vick (1911–1998), was transformed in 1976 from leadership to governance as he became chairman of the council for Warwick University—a position he retained until 1990, though continuing in the office of pro-chancellor until 1992. During those sixteen years he helped Warwick to pre-eminence among the new universities of the 1960s, institutions in the creation of which he had had a major hand during his membership of the University Grants Committee thirty years earlier. The judge, Leslie George Scarman, Baron Scarman (1911–2004), was chancellor of Warwick University from 1977 to 1989.

The educationist, John Race Godfrey Tomlinson (1932–2005), who had been director of education for Cheshire, was appointed professor of education and director of the Warwick Institute of Education in 1985. In 1993 Susan Strange [married names Merritt, Selly] (1923–1998), became the chair of international relations at the University of Warwick, where she built up the graduate programme in International Political Economy. Thanks to her, the University of Warwick won a large grant from the Economic and Social Research Council to fund an international centre for the study of globalization.

The philosopher, Susan Lynn Hurley (1954–2007), born in New York City, held a professorship in the department of politics and international studies at the University of Warwick from 1994 until 2006. In 2004 the general practitioner and medical educationist, Yvonne Helen Carter (1959–2009), was made the founding dean of the newly independent Warwick University medical school. She went
on to see the school achieving a ranking in the top ten medical schools in the country. She was so successful as dean that she was appointed a pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Warwick in 2007.

Warwick university admitted its first graduate students in 1964, and undergraduates in 1965. The educationist, Carol Adams (1948–2007), read history at Warwick University in the 1960s and during this decade of counterculture and revolution she began to explore issues of equality, particularly within the feminist movement. The children's commissioner, Peter William Hanwell Clarke (1948–2007), qualified as a social worker at Warwick University. The housing reformer and consumer rights campaigner, Dame Sheila Marshall McKechnie (1948–2004) studied for an MA in industrial relations at Warwick University in 1970. The folk singer and songwriter, Ian Campbell (1933–2012), three of whose four sons were members of the Coventry pop band UB40, became a mature student in the late 1970s at Warwick University, where he took a degree in theatre studies.