

Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition



APPLICATION FORM

Name of place applying:	Warwick
City status / Lord Mayor or Provost status:	City Status
Local authority:	Warwick Town Council
Contact details of applicant:	Jayne Topham, Town Clerk, Court House, Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EW. 01926 411694

a) Summary

With a rich history, cultural significance, thriving economy and strong community, Warwick has all the hallmarks of a great British city. The county town of Warwickshire is not only key to its local area both culturally and economically, but also boasts national significance. Known globally for Warwick Castle, the town is home to a host of historic buildings and landmarks with connections including royalty and culturally significant figures.

Warwick is a place that embraces and thrives on its traditions and heritage in the same way some of the country's finest cities do. It is an attractive and intriguing town, steeped in history, heritage and culture. Whether visiting the magnificent [Warwick Castle](#), one of the best preserved castles in the country, gazing at the ancient artefacts in [the Collegiate Church of St Mary's](#) or learning the history of the Lord Leycester Hospital, there's something for everyone whether they live in the area or are among the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors who support the local economy. Warwick has its own unique cultural identity and demonstrates its civic pride through a whole host of elements from a Blue Plaque Scheme recognising past significant people, a strong community focus, robust and supportive local governance to charity groups.

Alongside Warwick's history, the town has ongoing, significant links with the Royal family starting with the daughter of Alfred the Great founding the town in 914. Since then, the visitors have included Richard III, James I, William III, Queen Elizabeth I, George IV, the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal, and the Prince of Wales, as well as members of the royal family being regular private visitors to Warwick Castle as guests of the Earls of Warwick

The town centre is a thriving hub of independent shops, restaurants, hospitality venues and local, national and international businesses. The Market Square is the town's piazza providing a community space for events, the weekly market, and delivers a central gathering point for residents and visitors to enjoy the town's vista, its offerings, and each other's company.

From cultural and historical significance to its ongoing role as a community-focused thriving location, both economically and in terms of culture and innovation, together with its extensive Royal links, Warwick is a prime candidate as England's next city and would be a worthy recipient of city status in Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Year.

b) Introduction

Distinct Identity

Famous for its magnificent castle and historic charm, Warwick has been the vibrant county town for more than 1,100 years. Warwick bridges the gap between town and city with its nationally significant cultural heritage, bustling town centre packed with independent retail and extensive hospitality offering, as well as a track record of innovation, investment and aspiration.

Whilst rivalling many other small cities in terms of economic stability, Warwick retains the sense of community that is often seen in smaller towns and villages. It is without doubt a unique destination and one that merits recognition for its own distinct identity. Considered by many as the sub-regional centre of the Midlands, Warwick provides the name for the District Council, is the seat of the County Council and lends its name to an award-winning, world-renowned university as well as a top-quality hospital. The town is important industrially, both historically and now, and culturally is a hub of activity, hosting a series of major events throughout the year including the world-renowned Warwick Folk Festival, a Victorian Evening, Classic Car Festival, and other concerts and events.

Warwick's distinct identity was reflected in its naming in the top 20 places to live in the UK in the 2020 Halifax Quality of Life survey, which takes into account factors including education, lifestyle, personal well-being, health, housing, employment and environment.

Civic Pride

Civic pride is shared across Warwick and demonstrated by activities of a range of formal groups as well as more informal efforts by those keen to share their pride in the town with the wider world.

A central hub for Warwick's historic culture is the volunteer group [Unlocking Warwick](#), based at the restored [Court House in Jury Street](#), also the Town Hall, who help bring the building back to life as a hub of community activity. The group organises events, researches Warwick's social history, and brings it to life with dramatisations, alongside informative building and walking tours for visitors and residents and special projects based around Warwick's history.

History is kept alive also by [The Warwick Court Leet](#), one of only a handful remaining in the country, keeping the tradition of the court going as it was when established in 1554.

Organised by Warwick Town Council, Warwick in Bloom continues to be a clear demonstration of the wide-ranging civic pride in the town's appearance and always attracts huge local interest. Such is the town's attractiveness, Warwick was listed as one of the top 20 'Most Instagrammed Historic Towns in the UK', having been hashtagged 655,000 times on the image-sharing site.

Cultural infrastructure, interesting heritage, history, and traditions

Warwick Castle is one of the UK's best preserved castles, enabling people to experience more than 1,100 years of local history and colour. Engaging people of all ages, its modern take on bringing history to life includes dazzling shows and attractions and historic recreations, all set within 64 acres of beautiful grounds and gardens. The castle's ongoing restoration work ensures its structural integrity, beauty and authenticity are retained. In the last 10 years alone, £6 million has been spent on the upkeep, conservation and repair and restoration of the Castle and its grounds.

At the heart of Warwick sits the Collegiate Church of St Mary, which is approaching its 900th anniversary in 2023. The church, whose 134ft tower dominates Warwick's skyline, is home to the magnificent [15th century Beauchamp Chapel](#). Renowned as one of the finest chapels in the

country, it was built in the 15th Century to house the tomb of Richard Beauchamp, the Earl of Warwick and one of the richest and most powerful people in the history of our country. The church is a highly-recognised example of the European ecclesiastical architecture of its time, and ranks as one of the country's greatest treasures. The Chapel also houses the tombs of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, his brother Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and Robert's son, the "Noble Impe".

Warwick's mid-millennia architecture also includes the [Lord Leycester Hospital](#) - the only 'hospital' for former servicemen that takes in all three services, and its Master's Garden, which presents 14th and 15th century timber-framed buildings clustered around the Norman gateway into Warwick. The Grade I Listed building is one of the best preserved examples of medieval courtyard architecture in England and of incredible national significance with connection to compelling historical figures from Elizabeth I to Oscar Wilde. For nearly 450 years, the Lord Leycester has been the home of ex-servicemen – the Brethren – who have resided in the iconic buildings bequeathed to Warwick by the town's mediaeval Guilds. The Lord Leycester Hospital is also home to the Queen's Own Hussars Museum, which covers over 300 years of service of the senior light cavalry regiment of the British Army.

Warwick's history is also captured at [Market Hall Museum](#), a 17th-century landmark in the centre of Warwick with displays on the geology, natural history and early history of the town and its county. While at [St John's House Museum](#), the [Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum](#) is set in a lovely Jacobean building and tells the story of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1674 to the current Fusiliers. In addition, the [Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum](#) covers the history of the Warwickshire Yeomanry from 1794 to 1956 with a collection of uniforms, weapons, medals and memorabilia.

Warwick was also home to the first Priory outside the Holy City of Jerusalem, established in the town in 1109 by Henry de Newburgh, a Knight Crusader and first Earl of Warwick. The Priory was confiscated at the start of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 and went on to pass through the hands of different owners including Henry Wise, Royal Gardener to Queen Anne and the Lloyd banking family. In 1925, the shell of the house on the Priory site was bought by the Weddell family of the United States and its remains shipped to Richmond, Virginia, where it was rebuilt and is now owned and occupied by the Virginia Historical Society. The original site in Warwick is now covered by The Warwickshire County Records Office.

Cultural infrastructure

Warwick has a range of cultural offerings, many of which are significant. They include [Warwick Racecourse](#), whose inaugural race was held in 1707, though racing in Warwick is traced back to 1694. The course was the first to include a jump race in it and still hosts a full programme of jump racing throughout the year, many of which are televised.

Warwick is truly a green town with plenty of parks and gardens for residents to enjoy and for visitors to explore, whether picnicking [at St Nicholas Park](#) before a stroll along the River Avon, or discovering the historic gardens around the heart of town, such as [Pageant Garden](#) or [Hill Close Gardens](#), a network of individual Victorian gardens, planted with heritage flowers and vegetables, separated by high hedges. One of the few gardens of its type to survive in the UK, Hill Close Gardens is of national importance. Guy's Cliffe Walled Garden, originally part of the kitchen garden for Guy's Cliffe House from at least the 1770s to the late 1940s, has been restored and returned to a working Georgian/Victorian kitchen garden for educational benefit and the enjoyment of the community.

Alternatively, [The Mill Garden](#), at the end of Mill Street's 15th and 16th Century buildings, is renowned for the quality of its planting and breathtaking position on the banks of the River Avon beneath the walls of Warwick Castle.

Warwick and its historic buildings have been the perfect filming location for multiple television series, with various sites including the Lord Leycester Hospital and the Old Shire Hall/Crown Courts. TV series and films that have featured Warwick include the BBC's drama series *Dangerfield*, the period dramas *Pride and Prejudice*, *Tom Jones*, *Shakespeare & Hathaway* and Granada Television's *Moll Flanders*. Parts of the town substituted for Elizabethan- and Jacobean-era London in the BBC's *Doctor Who*, while filming also took place in June 2019 for *A Christmas Carol*, which was broadcast on UK television at Christmas that year. The BBC also filmed *Father Brown* in Warwick in 2021. In the popular 1970s TV series 'Six More English Towns', eminent English architectural historian Alex Clifton-Taylor OBE described Warwick's Northgate Terrace - a high-quality restoration of a listed collection of William & Mary, Georgian and Victorian properties - as "the finest 18th Century street in the Midlands".

J. R. R. Tolkien, who was married in Warwick's Catholic Church of Saint Mary Immaculate, is said to have been very influenced by the town and literary writers have suggested that two important settlements in Tolkien's work were modelled on Warwick and that aspects of the plot of *The Lord of the Rings* are paralleled in the romance known as *Guy of Warwick* (Source: *Times Literary Supplement*, 8th July 2005 pp 12–13). In recognition of J.R.R. Tolkien's association with Warwick, the Town Council erected a Blue Plaque in his name in 2018.

Warwick's History

Warwick has ancient origins. Human activity on the site dates to the Neolithic era. Archaeological work on the site of Warwick School in 2017–2018 revealed the footings of a sizable Roman barn from the 2nd century AD. From the 6th century onwards, Warwick was continuously inhabited. The name Warwick means "dwellings by the weir", implying that the original settlement was located by a natural weir over the River Avon.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the year 914 reports that King Alfred the Great's daughter, Aethelflaed, built a fortified dwelling on a hilltop site overlooking the earlier riverside settlement, to defend Mercia from the Danes (Vikings). In the early 10th century, a shire was founded with Warwick as its county town and a royal mint was established at Warwick and continued until the mid-12th century.

William the Conqueror founded Warwick Castle in 1068 and a new town wall was created close to the ramparts. The prosperity of medieval Warwick rested on its status as an administrative and military centre. Medieval Warwick was controlled by various Earls of Warwick, mostly of the Beauchamp family and it became a walled town; evidence of the wall remains at the east and west gatehouses.

Warwick's Priory was founded in around 1119 by Henry de Beaumont, the first Earl of Warwick. It was later destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, it stood on the site of the current Priory Park. Warwick was incorporated as a borough in 1545.

During the English Civil War, the town and castle were garrisoned for Parliament under Sir Edward Peyto. In 1642 the castle underwent a two-week siege by the Royalists commanded by the Earl of Northampton. The siege collapsed when, on hearing of the approach of the Earl of Essex, Lord Northampton marched his force away. Major John Bridges was appointed governor of the castle in 1643, and a garrison was maintained there with artillery and other stores until 1659, which at its height in 1645 consisted of 302 soldiers.

Much of Warwick's medieval town centre was destroyed in the Great Fire of Warwick on 5 September 1694, which within five hours destroyed 460 buildings and left 250 families homeless. The Shire Hall was badly damaged but was repaired and continued in use afterwards. The fire also burnt down much of the medieval church of St Mary but the Chancel and the Beauchamp Chapel survived.

In 1747, Antonio Canaletto painted Warwick Castle while the castle grounds and gardens were undergoing landscaping by Capability Brown. Five paintings and three drawings of the castle by Canaletto are known, making it the artist's most often represented building in Britain and described as “unique in the history of art as a series of views of an English house by a major continental master”. He also drew the town centre with a view of the Court House & St Mary's, which is currently in the British Museum.

In 1788 the Earl of Warwick obtained an Act of Parliament to enable him to build a new bridge over the Avon: Castle Bridge, which consists of a single sandstone arch, was opened in 1793. It replaced an older 14th century bridge further downstream, known as Old Castle Bridge, which fell into ruin, although remains of it can still be seen.

The Warwick & Birmingham and Warwick & Napton canals were both opened through Warwick in 1800 and now form parts of the Grand Union Canal, connecting Warwick to London and Birmingham on the canal network. The railway arrived in Warwick in 1852 when the Great Western Railway opened its main line between Birmingham, Oxford and London through the town, along with Warwick railway station.

Warwick is one of few places to retain its [Court Leet](#) - established by Royal Charter in 1554 - as part of its historic traditions. It also has a rich educational history. The Warwick Independent Schools foundation is one of the oldest educational establishments in the country, comprising Warwick School, The King's High School for Girls and Warwick Preparatory School, and latterly the Foundation has acquired the Kingsley Girls' School in Leamington Spa. Alongside this, Warwick has an array of successful state schools, while the University of the same name is ranked 61st in the world, according to the QS World University Rankings 2022. Additionally, St Mary's Choral School was set up in 1123 by the charter that established St Mary's Church.

Vibrant and welcoming community

While the town is famous for its architecture and green spaces, it's also rich in culture and community-centric activities and events. Warwick hosts several annual festivals, including the world-famous [Folk Festival](#), one of Britain's biggest roots music events, which has been running for more than 40 years and attracts around 30,000 music fans from around the world. Other events include the [Warwick Words History Festival](#), [Classical and Contemporary Music](#) performances, a [Victorian Evening](#), [Christmas Tree Festival](#) in St Mary's Church and several [Food Festivals](#). The Church also hosts a series of Early Music concerts, while the [Bridge House Theatre](#) hosts the Music-in-Round concerts and [The Playbox Theatre](#) offers world-class theatre performances specifically for young people.

Community group events include the [Warwick Family Festival](#), the [Warwick Thai Festival](#), [Guy of Warwick Festival](#) and in 2022 will see the launch of the musical-themed [Warwick: A Singing Town](#). The Court Leet hosts community events throughout the year, most notably the [Warwick Beer Festival](#) and the [Classic Car Show](#) with any funds raised from the events going to local charities and community projects.

To encourage community groups and local charities to realise their ambitions and help finance new initiatives, the Town Council offers a [community grant fund](#), awarding grants of up to £5,000 per application to contribute to the greater good of the town. In the past 10 years grants totalling just under £400k have been awarded to local charities and groups through this fund. Warwick District Council also offered financial support to create two community centres in the town. The Gap and Warwick Space Community Centres provide places for people to access a range of services and activities that are either free or low-cost.

As well as support from local government organisations, Warwick benefits from a range of charitable groups who work to create a vibrant, welcoming and supportive community. These

include The Charity of Thomas Oken and Nicholas Eyffler, which was set up in accordance with the wills of its patrons, both benefactors from Warwick whose work lives on through the charity today, which owns and administers almshouses on behalf of Warwick residents who are in need. Additionally, The King Henry VIII Endowed Trust, also formed by Oken and one of the oldest charities in the country, distributes significant sums to the town.

Contrasting with larger 'Warwick in Need' charities, the town also includes a number of small single-aim charities as well as several projects run by local groups, such as Warwick Town Christmas Lunch, which aims to address social isolation by hosting a Christmas Day lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day.

Record of innovation

Warwick has a strong record of innovation throughout its history, with several key British industrial institutions making their homes in the town. In 1946 Donald Healey set up his own motor company in Warwick, where he designed and produced sporting cars - hence their reference as Warwick Healeys. Born in Warwick, Austin Healey is known around the world for its innovation and style in sports cars and it retains a dedicated following to this day.

In 1945, boiler manufacturer Potterton switched its boiler production from London to Warwick, with the town becoming key to it through the years. The history of heating manufacturing continues to this day in Warwick, with the town home to [Baxi Heating](#), which produces trusted heating and hot water brands for residential and commercial heating customers in the UK and Ireland.

Another mark of Warwick's role as a centre for innovation is the town's historic connection to the oldest firm of manufacturers in Warwick, George Nelson, Dale & Co Ltd. The business was founded by George Nelson and his brother-in-law Thomas Bellamy Dale, who manufactured the famous 'Leamington Salts' in nearby Leamington Spa and later took out the first patent for the manufacture of gelatine in 1837.

Warwick continues to be a centre of innovation, with its central location attracting many innovative companies. Since November 2004, National Grid UK has had its UK headquarters on the Warwick Technology Park. Delphi Automotive, Phillips 66, and its petrol station group JET also have offices on the Technology Park. The town centre is home to the global operations of DCA Design International, one of the world's leading product design and development consultancies best known for its work on products from the Stanley Knife to the Eurotunnel Shuttle, while Warwick was also selected by the TATA group as home for its European HQ.

Tournament Fields is another thriving business park located southwest of Warwick town centre. Major businesses at this new park include Gerbit, Semcon, Eagle Burgmann, Sodick, Scholastic, Taylor Wimpey and Gallagher. In addition, IBM, Gerflor and Volvo Group UK have bases on the Wedgnoek Industrial Estate in the north of the town. Other companies with regional headquarters in Warwick include Bridgestone, Calor and Kantar. There has also been a growth in software and video gaming companies in the town, including British video games company Rebellion and Eatron Technologies, the leading provider of automotive-safe artificial intelligence solutions.

Sound governance and administration

Warwick is within three tiers of Council administration: Warwick Town Council, Warwick District Council (covering Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa, and Kenilworth), and the countywide Warwickshire County Council, which is based in Warwick.

Specific to Warwick Town Council, its principal function is to act as an instrument of community at grass roots level and to promote and watch over the interests of Warwick. The Town Council acts as a sounding board for community opinion, and in doing so focus the sense of the local

community on any aspect that affects the social or environmental well-being of the town and delivers that consensus of opinion to those responsible decision makers, whether they be members of a local authority or of any other agency, public or private.

Other functions of the Town Council can be classified into:

(i) Maintenance - In Warwick, the Town Council has accepted responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Court House, (Grade I - Listed Building of Special Interest), which is used for events and functions and home to the Tourist Information Office as well as for local organisations for meetings and functions. The Council also maintains the War Memorial in Church Street and the historic closed churchyards in the town.

(ii) The Provision of Services – The Town Council provides allotment sites at four locations administered by the Council providing facilities for 198 gardeners. Two social events a month are held at the Court House for residents.

(iii) The Encouragement of Voluntary Initiative – This includes the management or oversight of charities, grant-aid to voluntary effort, the giving or sponsoring of entertainments, arts and crafts and tourism and expenditure on things considered to benefit the Town. This function of the council also includes subscriptions to organisations and bodies and provision to make and receive courtesy visits at home and abroad.

The Town Council also makes grants to various charities and voluntary organisations, provides Band Concerts, and organises annual displays, Summer Bunting, Warwick in Bloom and Christmas Lights.

(iv) The Defence of Local Interests – This includes the statutory right to see all planning applications and make recommendations on them to the District Planning Authority. Consultation prior to the making of byelaws and the rights to represent the views of the townspeople at public inquiries and to oppose private bills in parliament.

The influence of the Council is also exerted through its District and County Councillors and through membership of National Associations. Every three weeks the Town Council Plans Committee meets to examine all planning applications for Warwick and considers any objections from residents before making its recommendations to the District Planning Authority. The Town Council is also consulted by the County and District Councils on structure plans for development, transportation, and future strategic planning. The Town Council appoints representative Trustees to major charities in the town.

(v) Guardianship of Local Traditions and Rights – The Town Council retains the Annual Mayor Making traditions and the celebration of Mayor's Sunday at a church in the town. The traditional opening of the Warwick Mop also remains with the Mayor. Similarly, the Town Council retains, maintains, and secures the regalia (including the Charters and the famous Warwick Black Book), two maces, silver plate and the Mayoral Chain.

(vi) Rating and Finance – The rating authority is Warwick District Council which collects rates on behalf of the County Council and Town Councils. The Town Council rate is charged to the residents of the Town only and is usually a very small percentage of the total

Associations with Royalty

Warwick has longstanding links with Royalty going right back to the building of the first fort in Warwick in 914AD by King Alfred the Great's daughter, Aethelflaed. A warrior princess who was also a brilliant administrator, with a vision of a united England, and supported by a resolute

Christian faith, she is widely regarded by historians as one of the great female leaders of Britain – as our Monarch is today.

Warwick is known for its links to the Earls of Warwick, from ‘the Kingmaker’ in the 15th Century to Edward Plantagenet, 17th Earl of Warwick who was held by King Henry VII for 14 years in the Tower of London until he was executed for high treason in 1499, supposedly for conspiring to escape with the ‘pretender’ Perkin Warbeck. In the early 1480s, King Richard III of England – the other son-in-law of Neville – instigated the construction of two gun towers, Bear and Clarence Towers, at Warwick Castle but were left unfinished on his death in 1485.

Queen Elizabeth I visited the castle in 1566 during a tour of the country, and again in 1572 for four nights. A timber building was erected in the castle for her to stay in, and Ambrose Dudley, 3rd Earl of Warwick, left the castle to the Queen during her visits.

In 1601 Sir Fulke Greville was granted Warwick Castle by King James I in 1604 and it was converted into a country house. The monarch visited Warwick in 1617 and the chair he used can still be seen in Lord Leycester Hospital. After extensive modernisation between 1669 and 1678, the castle hosted a visit by King William III on 4 November 1695.

Warwick continued to be of interest to royalty into the 20th Century, with a visit from King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1951. The Queen Mother visited Warwick three times and as well as opening the Shire Hall extensions she also unveiled a portrait of Sir Edgar Stephens, commissioned to honour his 40 years of service to the County, and took a tour of Lord Leycester’s Hospital. Her Majesty The Queen made frequent visits to the Royal Agricultural Show in nearby Stoneleigh. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh also visited the Master’s Garden at the Lord Leycester Hospital in 1996.

In 2015, the Princess Royal visited the University of Warwick to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the awarding of its Royal Charter of Incorporation. During the visit Princess Anne unveiled the foundation stone for the new Teaching and Learning Building. In 2020 the Prince of Wales visited the National Automotive Innovation Centre at the University of Warwick to see the latest innovations in electric and autonomous vehicle technology by Jaguar Land Rover, Tata Motors and Warwick Manufacturing Group. The Princess Royal returned to Warwick in October 2021.

Having been closely connected with the royal family for more than 1,100 years, Warwick would be proud to be granted city status to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee.

Distinctive people

Warwick has links to a number of distinctive people and honours their connection and historical link to the town. They include Thomas Oken, who lived in Warwick during the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. A mercer, he devoted his talents to the service of his town and his fellow citizens. Between Michaelmas 1544 and 15th May 1545, the date of the grant of the municipal charter to Warwick, he conducted the difficult negotiations with Henry VIII’s Commissioners which secured for the people of Warwick a substantial part of the Church and Guild endowments, preventing the worst effects of subsequent legislation by the Crown.

In his will, among other charitable bequests he provided almshouses for six people. Almshouses were also provided for in the will of his friend Nicholas Eyffler. The maintenance of these and the building of new almshouses over the years is carried out by The Charity of Thomas Oken’s and Nicholas Eyffler. Another result of Oken’s negotiations was the formation in 1545 of The King Henry VIII Endowed Trust, one of the oldest charities in the country. These two charities remain active today and, together with a number of other charities, distribute tens of thousands of pounds to organisations in the town.

Another key character in Warwick's history is Guy of Warwick, whose story has been told and re-told over the centuries in early English 'Histories', Medieval Romances, chapbooks and ballads. In 2018 the Guy of Warwick Society was formed to keep the memory of this famous knight alive and holds an annual 'Guy of Warwick Day'.

A [Blue Plaque Scheme](#) introduced by Warwick Town Council recognises some of the people and places within the town and commemorates the lasting contribution they made to the community of Warwick. They include the family of George Nelson Dale (2015), Arthur Measures of Mill Gardens (2016), J. R. R. Tolkien (2018), Kings High School (2019) and Donald Healey Motor Company (2021). The most recent plaque was unveiled on 27th November 2021 to recognise Warwick born British & Commonwealth boxing champion Dick Turpin. After the black curfew was lifted and black boxers were allowed to contest the championships, he won the British middleweight title in 1948. He was the first black British champion in any sport. Turpin's younger brother beat Sugar Ray Robinson to become World middleweight champion in 1951. A statue of him stands in the Market Square.

c) Profile

Resident population of the area

This section displays the latest population estimates and projections for Warwick. Population estimates are produced using a variety of data sources and statistical models, including some statistical disclosure control methods, and small estimates should not be taken to refer to particular individuals.

The estimated resident population of an area includes all those people who usually live there, regardless of nationality. Arriving international migrants are included in the usually resident population if they remain in the UK for at least a year. Emigrants are excluded if they remain outside the UK for at least a year. Armed forces stationed outside of the UK are excluded. Students are usually residents at their term time address.

Economic activity

Population Data 2020

(Source: Warwickshire County Council)

In some aspects, the population of Warwick reflects that of England nationally, though in others it does differ.

The population of Warwick by age group reflects that of England as a whole, as shown by the table below. In terms of the country of birth of residents born in England, it is slightly higher for Warwick (86.9%) than the national figure of 83.5%. The percentages for the remainder of the UK and Ireland are similar with only those born in 'other countries' being lower at 8.8% against 13.1%.

In terms of ethnicity, Warwick differs from national figures. The percentage of residents who are Black / African / Caribbean / Black British is only 0.6% of the population compared to the national figure of 3.5%. All the other categories are very similar except white residents where the local figure is 88.7% against a national figure of 85.4%.

	Warwick		England		Difference
Total Population					
	Male	15,472	49.86%		
	Female	15,559	50.14%		
	Total	31,031			
Population by Age					
	0-15	5,856	18.87%	19.20%	0.33%
	16-64	19,420	62.58%	62.30%	-0.28%
	65+	5,755	18.55%	18.50%	-0.05%

Country of Birth

England	26,177	86.93%	83.50%	-3.43%
Northern Ireland	127	0.42%	0.40%	-0.02%
Scotland	504	1.67%	1.30%	-0.37%
Wales	409	1.36%	1.00%	-0.36%
Ireland	244	0.81%	0.70%	-0.11%
Others	2,652	8.81%	13.10%	4.29%

Ethnicity

Asian/Asian British	2,226	7.39%	7.80%	0.41%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	201	0.67%	3.50%	2.83%
Mixed/Multiple Groups	648	2.15%	2.30%	0.15%
Other Ethnic Groups	324	1.08%	1.00%	-0.08%
White	26,715	88.71%	85.40%	-3.31%

Economic Data 2011
(Source: Warwickshire County Council)

The percentage of the population in Warwick who are economically active is 76%, according to official figures. Those figures stand at 78% for males and 75% for females. The table below shows a breakdown according to job status and occupation, including comparisons to England as a whole.

In terms of employment status, three of the categories are very similar: part-time employees; full time students and the self-employed. The proportion of full-time employees in Warwick is significantly higher at 53.1%, compared to 46.2% nationally. The number of unemployed is also lower than the national figure at 3.8% vs 5.2%. Finally, the percentage of retired people in Warwick is lower at 14% compared to the national figure of 16.3%.

In the occupations breakdown Warwick reflects national figures apart from for professional occupations which account for 23.7% of the population in Warwick compared to 17.5% nationally.

The economically inactive population in Warwick stands at 24% (Male 22% and Female 25%). The long-term unemployed figures are virtually the same in Warwick as nationally at 1.7% but the proportion of those who have never worked is lower, at 0.44% of Warwick's population compared to a national level of 0.70%

	Warwick		England	Difference
Economically Active				
Total	76%			
Male	78%			
Female	75%			
Status				
Full Time employees	10,489	53.13%	46.20%	-6.93%
Part Time employees	3,227	16.35%	16.41%	0.06%
Full Time Students	530	2.68%	4.11%	1.43%
Self-Employed	1,977	10.01%	11.67%	1.66%
Unemployed	751	3.80%	5.24%	1.44%
Retired	2,769	14.03%	16.37%	2.34%
Occupations				
Manager, Directors & Senior Officials	1,922	11.66%	10.90%	-0.76%
Professional Occupations	3,905	23.69%	17.50%	-6.19%
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	2,337	14.18%	12.80%	-1.38%
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	1,808	10.97%	11.50%	0.53%
Skilled Trades Occupations	1,396	8.47%	11.40%	2.93%
Caring, Leisure & Other Service Occupations	1,323	8.03%	9.30%	1.27%
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	1,143	6.93%	8.40%	1.47%
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	795	4.82%	7.20%	2.38%
Elementary Occupations	1,498	9.09%	11.10%	2.01%
Economically Inactive				
Total	24%			
Male	22%			
Female	25%			

Public Green Spaces

Warwick offers an array of green spaces, many of which have historical significance, offering cultural interest as well as contributing to Warwick's beauty as a destination. Some of Warwick's significant green spaces include:-

- **Hill Close Gardens** is a network of individual Victorian gardens separated by high hedges. Once used by townsfolk living above their business to escape from the crowded town, it was saved from destruction by the concerted efforts of neighbouring residents, supported by the District and Town Councils, and lovingly restored. Today [Hill Close Gardens](#) are not only loved locally, but recognised nationally.
- [The Master's Garden](#) at the Lord Leycester Hospital is a unique and historically significant spot. Hidden behind the ancient buildings of the Lord Leycester Hospital, the plot has been cultivated for over 500 years, was restored in the 1800s and again in the 1990s. Enclosed by the ancient stone town walls, the garden contains interesting features including a 12th Century Norman arch and a huge stone vase reputed to be a 2,000-year-old "Nilometer", used for measuring the height of the river's floods. Visitors to The Master's Garden included Nathaniel Hawthorne, Charles Dickens, Charles Darwin, and Oscar Wilde, as well as Her Majesty The Queen, together with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who visited the Garden in 1996. The Master's Garden has featured in Country Life and on BBC TV's Gardener's World.
- **The Mill Garden**, famous for its 15th and 16th century buildings, was created over a period of sixty years by the late Arthur Measures, who made it a personal expression of his love of plants. The Mill Garden is renowned for the quality of its planting and breathtaking position on the banks of the River Avon, lying beneath the walls of Warwick Castle.
- **St. Nicholas Park** is the town's most popular park offering broad swathes of grass, floral displays, riverside walks, boating, amusements, crazy golf, outdoor paddling pool, tennis, football courts, children's play areas, a cafe and a leisure centre.
- [Priory Park](#) is a natural open space with meadow and woodland walks. Opened in 1953, it is named after the Priory of St Sepulchre which was built on the site in the 12th Century. After the dissolution of the monasteries, a large stately home called 'The Priory' was constructed. It sat in forty acres of parkland until the 1920s, when it was shipped to Virginia, USA. Little evidence of the building remains above ground today but the park is a [Scheduled Ancient Monument](#) because of its fascinating history.
- [Guy's Cliffe Walled Garden](#) was originally part of the kitchen garden for Guy's Cliffe House from at least the 1770s to the late 1940s. In recent years the garden had become overgrown and derelict, but since 2014 volunteers have contributed thousands of hours to bring the garden back to life. The garden is listed as a Grade II site by English Heritage on the Register of Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

These are just a few of many more examples of green spaces across Warwick. Others include:-

- **Saltisford Canal Trust** provides a colourful canal urban fringe park, run by local charity on the Saltisford Arm of the Grand Union Canal.
- **St John's House Museum Garden** is close to St Nicholas Park which is reached by walking along the naturalistic Brook Gardens.
- **The College Garden** is a quiet refuge from the bustle of the town and a spot from which to admire St Mary's Church.

- **The Pageant Garden** lies close to the town centre and is an unexpected haven.
- **The Quaker Garden** lies behind the Friends' Meeting House and provides a quiet and intimate retreat.
- **Warwick Common/St Mary's Lands**, now home to the racecourse, these were the only recreation grounds for the townspeople until the twentieth century.

Sport and leisure facilities

Warwick is home to several historic sporting clubs, all with their own unique history, as well as a range of modern sports and leisure facilities to cater for a variety of interests and activities.

- **Members' Sports Clubs.** Warwick has many long-established sports clubs. [Warwick Boat Club](#) is a members sports club dating from 1861, providing tennis, squash, rowing, bowls and social facilities. [Racing Club Warwick Football Club](#) was founded in 1919 while [Warwick Hockey Club](#), recently celebrated 100 seasons since its foundation in 1920. Warwick also offers residents a [Cricket Club](#).
- [Warwick Racecourse](#) is one of the oldest in the country, with unofficial racing traced back to as early as 1694. The sport was introduced to the market town in the hope of attracting wealthy professionals to help rebuild the area's wealth after the devastating Great Fire of Warwick. The inaugural race at the course was held in 1707, but another 102 years passed before the first stand was opened, parts of which remain today among the later developments. The most famous name to grace the course was the legendary Red Rum, who ran once on the flat in 1967 - the same year in which the course was bought by The Jockey Club, who continue to host a fantastic Jump racing calendar from September to May, much of which is televised. Famous races held at Warwick include the [Classic Chase](#), held each year in January and dating back to 1974. Warwick racecourse also hosts the Warwick ParkRun.
- **St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre** offers a range of activities to enjoy. Following a multi-million pound refurbishment, it offers a state-of-the-art 80-station gym and swimming pool. It also features a climbing wall, a floodlit astroturf pitch and two brand new group fitness studios. Its sports hall also provides facilities to play table tennis and badminton.
- **Football pitches** are available to hire at St Mary's Lands, Hampton Road and offers one senior and two junior football pitches. There are two further senior football pitches at St Nicholas Park, Banbury Road.
- [Warwick Golf Centre](#) - A nine-hole golf course and driving range in Warwick.
- **Tennis Courts** - Tennis courts are available to hire at St Nicholas Park.
- **Outdoor activities** are also available at St Nicholas Park, including:
 - Golf - 18-green adventure golf and 9-hole crazy golf
 - Boating - rowing boats and motor boats
 - Orienteering - two permanent orienteering courses
 - Level grass for ball games, jogging and kite-flying.

Shopping Centres

Warwick is a thriving town packed with independent retailers as well as attracting major brands and names in a variety of settings, plus a popular market that continues its age-old tradition as a market town.

- **Specialist, independent businesses and unique shops.** As a traditional market town, Warwick has retained its unique individuality. Its independent shops and retailers offer variety, choice and value. From clothing shops to antiques sellers, local crafts, high-quality offerings and more, Warwick continues to attract the very best of independent businesses, all backed by an active Chamber of Trade and support from organisations including the Town Council.
- **In-town supermarkets** - Warwick offers several in-town supermarkets, offering choice from some of the biggest names in the UK. In-town supermarkets include Sainsbury's, Tesco Superstore, Tesco Express, Lidl and Co-operative Food.
- **A modern shopping park** lies on the edge of the town, offering high-street and supermarket stores including: Marks & Spencer (Clothing & Home), Marks & Spencer Food Hall, Sainsbury's, New Look, Next, Clarks, EE, Halford, JD Sports, and TK Maxx.
- **A thriving weekly market.** Warwick Market is operated by local company CJ's Events in partnership with Warwick District Council, bringing an array of stalls to the town's Market Square, offering everything from fresh fruit and vegetables, plants and cut flowers, to fresh baking, fish and clothing, to gifts and food specialities. Warwick Market was one of the first in the country to reopen following the initial Covid lockdown and in June 2020, CJ's Events Warwickshire and Warwick Market were adopted by Central Government as a case study for how to implement a market's safe return. Alongside its regular market, Warwick is also host to a range of seasonal markets and one-off market days, adding to the shopping opportunities for locals and visitors alike.

Local authority support for the voluntary sector

To encourage community groups and local charities to realise their ambitions and help finance new initiatives, the Town Council offers a [community grant fund](#) to aid their progress for the greater good of the entire Warwick area. Grants are available up to £5,000 per applicant and the Fund contributes to the Council's objectives of involving community representatives in identifying local needs.

In the past 10 years almost £400k has been distributed to local organisations including among others; the local Allotments Society, The Friends of Priory Park, Guys Cliffe House, The Parenting Project – Family Wellbeing Pathway, St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival, Woodloes Scarecrow Festival, 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts, Emscote & All Saints PTA, Parkmore's Community Garden, The Lord Leycester Hospital, Kissing it Better, Citizens Advice Bureau, Warwick Horticultural Society, Rooted in our Community, and the Warwick Ambulance Association.

d) Photographs



A viewpoint overlooking the town and the Collegiate Church of St Mary.

Photo: [Christian Mackie on Unsplash](#)



Jury St and The Court House. Photo: Warwick District Council



Smith Street and view to the Eastgate. Photo: Warwick District Council



Warwick's Market Square and the popular Saturday market. Photo: Warwick District Council



The **Market Square** offers outdoor seating, making it a piazza for Warwick residents and visitors. Photo: Warwick District Council



View from The Holloway to the Market Square and the Museum. Photo: Buyin2Warwick



Swan Street and the approach to Jury Street. Photo: Warwick District Council



Signage on **Market Square**



Church Street - leading to Collegiate Church of St Mary



Castle Street and view to St Mary's Church. Photo: Warwick District Council



Castle Street. Photo: Warwick District Council



Swan Street. Photo: Warwick District Council



Mill Street - seen from the east tower of Warwick Castle. Photo: Barrie Cann / Mill Street Warwick, from the Castle Tower / [CC BY-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/)



Smith Street. Photo: Warwick District Council



West Street - leading to the town's Westgate. Photo: Richard Eddy



West Street and the Westgate. Photo: [David Stowell/Westgate, Warwick/CC BY-SA 2.0](#)



Warwick Castle and the River Avon. Photo: Warwick District Council



Warwick Castle's East Front & Gate House Photo: Warwick Castle



The Collegiate Church of St Mary's – aerial view. Photo: BuyIn2Warwick.



The Collegiate Church of St Mary's - Remembrance Sunday. Photo: Gill Fletcher



Market Hall Museum is in the Market Hall, a 17th-century landmark in the heart of Warwick, with displays on the geology, natural history and early history of the county.



St John's House Museum - Close to St Nicholas Park is St John's House which is reached by walking along the naturalistic Brook Gardens and is home to the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum. Photo: Visit Warwick



The Court House - This splendid Grade 1 listed building – built after the 1694 Great Fire of Warwick – has been brought back to life with the aid of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Warwick Town Council. Officially reopened in 2014, the year Warwick celebrated its 1100th anniversary, it is now a versatile space for community events, private parties, weddings and conferences.

Photo: Warwick Town Council



The Ballroom at the Court House. Photo: Warwick Town Council



Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum - The Museum covers the history of the Warwickshire Yeomanry from 1794 to 1956 with a collection of uniforms, weapons, medals and memorabilia. The Museum is managed entirely by volunteers through a Charitable Trust.



The Lord Leicester Hospital - Beautiful 14th and 15th century timber-framed buildings clustered around the Norman gateway into Warwick. Photo: Visit Warwick



The Lord Leycester Hospital and Chapel at night. Photo: Warwick Court Leet



The Great Hall at The Lord Leycester Hospital. Warwick District Council



Northgate Street. Photo: Warwick District Council



Warwick Racecourse - Racing has been part of Warwick life since 1707 and the course still hosts a full programme of jump racing throughout the year. Photo: Visit Warwick



Warwick Boat Club – a club for tennis, squash, bowls and rowing. Photo: [Warwick Boat Club](#)



St Nicholas Park - Popular park offering broad swathes of grass, floral displays, riverside walks, boating, amusements, crazy golf, outdoor paddling pool, tennis, football courts, children's play areas, a cafe and a leisure centre. Photo: Visit Warwick.



St. Nicholas Park. Photo: Warwick District Council



St. Nicholas Park - boat hire for the River Avon. Photo: Warwick District Council



Warwick Common/St Mary's Lands - Until the twentieth century the Commons were the only recreation grounds for the townspeople and were also used for military training and a variety of sports.



The College Garden - A quiet refuge from the bustle of the town and a spot from which to admire St Mary's Church. Photo: Visit Warwick



Priory Park offers natural open space with meadow and woodland walks; perfect for getting away from it all. Photo: Visit Warwick



The Master's Garden at the Lord Leycester Hospital - Hidden behind the ancient buildings of the Lord Leycester Hospital is the enchanting and peaceful Master's Garden. Photo: Visit Warwick



The Pageant Garden - Behind the Court House in the Town Centre is the unexpected haven of the Pageant Garden. Photo: Warwick Town Council



Hill Close Gardens - This delightful network of individual Victorian gardens, separated by high hedges. Photo: Visit Warwick/Hill Close Gardens.



Hill Close Gardens - Summerhouses, gnarled old fruit trees, and heritage flowers and vegetables welcome people to this tranquil spot. Photo: Richard Eddy



The Mill Garden - At the end of Mill Street famous for its 15th and 16th century buildings, is where you will find the Mill Garden renowned for the quality of its planting and breathtaking position on the banks of the River Avon, lying beneath the walls of Warwick Castle. Photo: Warwick Castle by Chris Allen



The Mill Garden. Photo: Richard Eddy



Saltisford Canal Trust - Colourful canal urban fringe park, run by local charity on the Saltisford Arm of the Grand Union Canal. Photo: Visit Warwick



The Grand Union Canal runs through Warwick. Photo: Richard Eddy



Warwick War Memorial - Behind every name on the Warwick War Memorial in Church Street is a human story, bringing home to succeeding generations the sacrifices made by the individuals and their families who lived in the town during both World Wars. Photo: Unlocking Warwick.



(Left) The Blue Plaque installed onto Healey Court to recognise the site of **The Donald Healey Motor Company**. (Right) The most recent Blue Plaque was installed in memory of British and Commonwealth boxing champion **Dick (Lionel) Turpin**, the first black athlete to win a British title in any sport in 1948.



The Warwick Hall at Warwick School, incorporating the Bridge House Theatre.
Photo: [Warwick School](#)

e) Map



Points of interest

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Market Hall Museum | 5 St Nicholas Park | 9 Lord Leycester Hospital |
| 2 Collegiate Church of St Mary | 6 Mill Street & Garden | 10 Hill Close Gardens |
| 3 Smith Street | 7 Warwick Castle | 11 Warwick Racecourse |
| 4 St John's House | 8 The Court House | 12 Saltisford Canal Centre |

Transport routes

Public Transport

Train

Warwick Station, which is 10 minutes' walk from the town centre and castle, is served by Chiltern Railways which has services to Birmingham, Stratford-upon-Avon and London with two trains an hour and West Midland Railways which has a peak hour service to Leamington and Birmingham. There is also a Parkway Station 1.5 miles (2km) from the town centre which is on the same line as Warwick Station with a few more trains stopping there.

Bus

There are a number of routes which go to adjoining towns that run through the Warwick connecting the outlying housing estates, shopping areas, parks and places of interest.

16 – Warwick Hospital, Warwick Parkway Station, Hatton Park and Kenilworth (Every 2 hours)

X18 – Royal Leamington Spa & Coventry (Every 30 minutes)

X17 – Warwick Hospital, Kenilworth and Coventry (Every 30 minutes)

Road

Warwick is well served by an extensive motorway network. It is 2 miles (2.5km) from the M40 which links to M42, M5, M6 and M25

Parking: The town has plenty of long-stay and short-stay parking facilities (see map) as well as on-street parking available for between 30 minutes and two hours.

Road distances from Warwick

Royal Leamington Spa - 3 miles (4 km)

Kenilworth - 6 miles (9 km)

Warwick University - 8 miles (11 km)

Stratford-upon-Avon - 9 miles (15 km)

Coventry - 12 miles (19 km)

Birmingham Airport - 18 miles (29 km)

Birmingham - 24 miles (38 km)

Oxford - 50 miles (81 km)

London - 94 miles (152 km)

ENDS



Thank you