



# belgradeplaza news

coventry just gets better

issue two



View of the Belgrade Plaza from junction 9 of the ring road

## Plaza update

Welcome to our second Belgrade Plaza News - since our last newsletter we have been extremely busy on site and changes are beginning to take place.

The archaeological dig is now complete and work has started on Leigh Mills Car Park and is advancing well. Although we experienced a few teething problems initially, I hope you will agree that the car park areas are working well and access to all areas of the town centre are easily accessible.

Going to the market place has resulted in extremely positive feedback from potential occupiers but it has resulted in the need for our plans for the Belgrade Plaza scheme to be honed to help attract major national occupiers and to gain the best occupiers for our city.

The scheme will still feature two hotels, a casino, retail units and residential apartments as well as dramatically improving and extending the Leigh Mills Multi Storey Car Park.

The revised scheme will incorporate seven retail, bar and restaurant units and a 30,000 sq ft casino while the quality hotel has a slightly

reduced number of bedrooms from 199 rooms to 184.

It now includes two bars and restaurants as well as extensive conference and leisure facilities including the ability to cater for a function of up to 500 people.

The budget hotel has also been slightly reduced to 109 bedrooms compared with 126 in the original plan and it includes a 50-seat restaurant.

The residential offering at Belgrade Plaza is broadly unchanged, although the total number of apartments has been reduced by 35 to 322 units so if you want to be one of the first to acquire an apartment, please register your interest with the agents Shortland Horne on 0247 622 0444.

The total number of car parking spaces at Leigh Mills has been increased to 1,210 where it was previously scheduled to be 1,117 spaces.

Work on the car park is well advanced and it is due to re-open in October.

With schemes of such significance, it is not unusual to see the plans altered slightly. We have met with local businesses and residents to discuss the changes and have explained that they will not alter the effect of the overall scheme.

The changes follow on from meetings we have had with national operators and suggestions they have made that will make the scheme more attractive to them. We will be in a position soon to announce some exciting operators to the scheme so keep an eye on the press for further announcements.

Our latest computer generated images of the scheme clearly show how Belgrade Plaza will change the skyline of Coventry - we hope you are as excited as we are.

For further information visit our website at [www.belgradeplaza.com](http://www.belgradeplaza.com) where we will continue to add images of the scheme and updates of how the scheme is progressing together with the latest news on occupiers.

Mike Jones and Peter Deeley, Oakmoor Deeley

**stop press!**  
Gala announces new casino in coventry

GALA CASINOS

**Gala Group, the UK's leading gaming company, will be opening a new state-of-the-art casino in the heart of Coventry. The casino will be situated in the £100m Belgrade Plaza in the city centre and is due to open in the Spring of 2008.**

Nick Potter, managing director of Gala Casinos says: "Gala's Casinos - with their innovative designs, bar, restaurant and gaming areas - are some of the most exciting leisure destinations in the UK today. I'm sure Gala's Coventry casino will be an enormous success."

Peter Deeley, of Oakmoor Deeley, developers of the site adds: "This is very good news for Coventry and for the Belgrade Plaza. We are looking to create a new leisure and entertainment quarter around the Belgrade and Bond Street areas."

# budding artists!

Children from two Coventry primary schools have been helping to make the Belgrade Plaza redevelopment truly state-of-the-art.



*Pictured above Martin Malone of Arts Exchange and pupils of Spon Gate Primary School.*

The youngsters, who are aged between seven and nine, were chosen to sketch their impressions of the city's past, present and future. Their images have been made into a collage and blown up to fill three boards measuring 12ft by 8ft which will then be erected around the site of the Leigh Mills car park so watch out for the new artwork and kids see if you can spot your work!

The young artists were year five and six pupils from St Osburg's RC Primary School, in Upper Hill Street, and year three and four pupils from Spon Gate Primary School, in Upper Spon Street. They were selected for the project because of their schools' proximity to the Belgrade Plaza and because both schools have a rich history in the area.

Kate Turner of Arts Exchange, a community-based organisation based in Lower Holyhead Road, organised the project and had a great time with the children.

**They were very creative and came up with some wacky ideas, especially for the future, which they envisage to contain lots of fountains and hover vehicles.**

Kate and her team will be working with different community groups each month to design artwork for the hoardings. The artwork will reflect the past, present and future of the site and its immediate surroundings, landmarks and points of historical interest.

The next piece of artwork has been provided by the young adults from The Foyer Project who are working alongside the residents from Bond Street Hospital Alms House to produce a composite map of the Belgrade Plaza site through the ages.

The young adults will be visiting the Alms House to chat with the residents so they can build up a timeline for the site.

In conjunction with International Women's Week another workshop was held at the Salvation Army where budding artists looked at shoes! In view of the volume of shoes that were unearthed at the archaeological dig we felt that this was a good start to reflect on shoes as a fashion through the ages.

We approached Arts Exchange because of their strong links with the community. It is essential to ensure the arts are nurtured in the city and we believe that involving the local community in our development is a sound start.

To view the artwork please visit:

[www.belgradeplaza.com](http://www.belgradeplaza.com)



## timetable update

- Work started - Leigh Mills Car Park  
Autumn 05
- Completion of Leigh Mills Car Park  
Autumn 06
- Phase II Courtyard site  
*apartments and two bars*  
start on site  
January 07
- Phase III main block  
*Casino, two hotels, residential, bars  
and restaurants start on site*  
Autumn 06
- Completion Phase II  
Summer 08
- Completion Phase III  
Spring 08

## intergenerational skills



These pictures are a sneak preview from one of the workshops that recently took place between The Foyer Project and the residents of the Bond Street Hospital Alms House.



# Building work begins

In November, 2005, part of international construction and support services group Mowlem plc, started the £10 million contract to extend and improve Leigh Mills Car Park. Mowlem is one of the most experienced contractors in the UK and we are delighted to have it on board.

The five-storey extension of the car park will be complete by autumn 2006.

Externally the car park will be served by a new access and egress ramp off the ring road. Most of the paved perimeter will see numerous adjustments in readiness for the further phases of the development.

Work is well on the way preparing the existing structure for the extension. These works include the underpinning and supplementation of the existing piles and demolition to accommodate the new structure.

Mowlem is employing a team of 120 operatives to work on the scheme.



Pictured left to right Tim Hurdiss, Kieran Leahy, Mike Jones and Peter Deeley - Oakmoor Deeley, with hats left to right Mick Duffy and Chris Byrne of Mowlem Building.



Aerial shot of work underway at Leigh Mills car park



Pictured left to right Warren Ellis, Mike Jones - Oakmoor Deeley, Jilly Cosgrove - Barques Design and Tim Hurdiss - Oakmoor Deeley.

# taxi!

Belgrade Plaza has won international acclaim and can now be hailed across the city.

Local cabbie Warren Ellis of Trinity Taxis has been sponsored by Oakmoor Deeley to spread the word about Belgrade Plaza.

The cab - made in Coventry by LTI - is now emblazoned with details of our development and will be used by Oakmoor Deeley to bring potential tenants to site - as well as being used by visitors to Coventry and, of course, residents and businesses.

I am sure you will agree that the make over should certainly get Warren's cab noticed as well as bringing him some extra fares with the increasing number of prospective tenants who are visiting the city.

## Town Wall Tavern

Did you know that one of the city's oldest pubs will be on the doorstep of Belgrade Plaza?

The Town Wall Tavern, which is recorded on maps dating back to 1851, is aptly named. The popular Victorian pub - situated in Bond Street - follows the line of Coventry's old town wall which runs along the perimeter of the Belgrade Plaza.

It is renowned for its Donkey Box at the front of the pub, overlooking the development, which is one of the smallest bars in the country so don't all rush at once to watch the work on site progress - you may find the seats are already taken.



Don't worry though there is plenty of other seating in the remainder of the pub which is renowned for its friendly atmosphere and lively banter.

Carl and his team are well known for their homemade traditional food particularly their steak pies. Food is currently served between 11am and 3pm from Monday to Saturday but plans are in the pipeline to re-launch Sunday lunches.

As the regulars at the pub will testify, there is an excellent selection of fine cask ales including a guest ale which changes on a regular basis.

The Town Wall Tavern is open between 11am and 11pm from Monday to Saturday and between midday and 10.30pm on Sundays. Carl and his team look forward to welcoming you so why don't you pop in for a pie and a pint and have a look at some of the community artwork on our hoarding whilst your there!

View of Belgrade Plaza from the junction 9 Island



# competition free car parking space

This month's competition invites you to guess how many extra car parking spaces will there be on completion of the works at Leigh Mills Car Park.

Answers on a postcard to Jilly Cosgrove, Barques Design, 33 Ludgate Hill, Birmingham B3 1EH or email [jilly@barques.co.uk](mailto:jilly@barques.co.uk). Closing entries for the competition will be 30th April, 2006. The winner will receive a free car parking space in the new Leigh Mills Car Park when it is reopened in the Autumn for a period of 6 months. Competition rules, in the event of a tie, all correct entries will be placed in a hat and a winner drawn. Oakmoor Deeley will confirm the number of parking spaces that will be provided and their decision will be final!

## Deborah is a winner!

Congratulations to Deborah Vernon who was the winner of our 'Guess the number of Shoes excavated' competition. Deborah was the closest to the final figure which was a staggering 71 shoes! She received a half case of champagne and a signed copy of Ian Soden's book 'Historical Coventry'. A big thank you to all of you who took the time to enter our competition.



Pictured here is Deborah celebrating with Ian Soden, Archaeologist, Northamptonshire County Council and Mike Jones, Oakmoor Deeley.



View of Belgrade Plaza from Upper Well Street

## Sponsorship

The Belgrade Theatre launched its 2006 production of Coventry's medieval Mystery Plays at BBC Coventry and Warwickshire in Priory Place in the city.

Belgrade Plaza will be the main sponsor of the Ancient Tradition which will be staged in Coventry Cathedral ruins between July 20 and August 6 2006 - DON'T MISS IT!



Left to right: Lynne Shields (Arden Shields), Kieran Leahy (Oakmoor Deeley), Jill Mowlam (Belgrade Theatre)

## Godiva Carnival set to grow this year through sponsorship from Oakmoor Deeley

The award-winning Godiva Carnival is expected to be bigger and better this year following the sponsorship by Oakmoor Deeley for a range of events to be undertaken by the award-winning team.

The Carnival – designed and directed by the Belgrade Theatre special events team – has already won three national trophies – best newcomer, best performance on the road and best overall entry – in the 36th Torchlight procession in Kendal.

The special events team are focussed on making theatre accessible to the community and involving the community in the performances. They worked with over 1,000 Coventry school children and young people in the preparation of the International Children's Games event and the Godiva Carnival which Belgrade Plaza also sponsored last year.

Oakmoor Deeley are committed to supporting Coventry arts. It's essential to ensure that the arts and cultural scene

thrives in the city and we believe that involving the local community is the best way to achieve this.

Kieran Leahy, Director of Oakmoor Deeley believes there is a rich artistic tradition in Coventry and it is in everyone's interests to see it thrive and grow and hopefully Belgrade Plaza's involvement will help that happen through all its community assistance. Please join us in supporting this year's events!



Left to right: Mike Jones, Peter Deeley, Tim Hurdiss and Kieran Leahy (all Oakmoor Deeley) with carnival performer Claire Johnson

## editor's note

I have received many emails since the publication of the last newsletter and as a result of people visiting the website - I hope all your queries were answered to your satisfaction.

We are keen to hear people's views or answer any concerns you may have so please feel free to call or email me.

Through the newsletter and the website we aim to keep you informed of progress at Belgrade Plaza. A helicopter will be taking aerial shots of work on site on a monthly basis and these will be posted on the website for you to look at.

If you require a large print version of this newsletter – please contact me.

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