

**DRAMA:** Musical group's tribute to a wartime victim is launched

# We're on the trail of Chico the clown



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**■ SURREAL** ... Performers (from left) Lilly Cusbert-Greaves, Alice Lesley Pocklington, Kurt Zamiko and Lance F.S on the trail of Chico the clown in Hillfields

Picture:  
 Joe Bailey

**A BIZARRE trail and performance devoted to a Coventry clown who lost his voice and memory during the Blitz has been launched in Hillfields.**

The Pollard Trail tells the story of Irving Pollard, who worked under the name of Chico and lived in the Primrose Hill area of Hillfields.

He fell silent after the Blitz destroyed his workshop containing his puppets and it was only by carving a new puppet that he was finally able to com-

By Dayle Crutchlow

municate with friends and relatives.

Renewed interest in Irving Pollard has seen the reformation of the Coventry Musical Play Society (CMP Soc), of which he was a member, and it is this society which has put on the trail, in conjunction with the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum-based Triangle Theatre.

The fusion of playful guides and clown curators which features performance, music, talks and tours takes in locations around Hillfields which

were key to the clown's life.

Talks and surreal dramatisations are held at places like St Mary's and Benedict's Church Hall, the Kurdistan Coffee Shop and the Swanswell pub.

Triangle Theatre spokeswoman Amanda Kay said: "The group members regard themselves as clown curators, as they have researched and interpreted Pollard's story and presented it in such a creative, radical way."

The trail will take place every day until Sunday. It can be joined at any time and lasts from half an hour

to all day. From Monday to Saturday it runs between 11am and 5pm and on Sunday from noon to 4pm.

Yesterday Hillfields residents were invited to check out the trail for free, while today, tomorrow and Thursday there will be a "pay what you can" policy. After that it costs £5, £3 concessions or £2 to Hillfields residents.

Trail maps and timetables are available from The Herbert, Coventry Tourist Information Centre, Coventry Transport Museum, local libraries and participating venues.