



## POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL calling... Welcome to your December 2020 update

### *Our news:*

\*Our **poetry competition for Peace Festival 2020** attracted more than 90 entries from four continents. Participants were from Coventry, other parts of UK, Ireland, Hong Kong, USA, China, Greece, Uganda and India! The judges had a gruelling time because of the high standard of poems.

The virtual awards ceremony was attended by 33 entrants from three continents. That everyone enjoyed the awards ceremony was evident from comments such as “Thank you for this great Coventry event and opportunity for poets to share their work”, “Every poem has been creative and written beautifully”, etc.

The winner was Joe Reynolds. In second place was Olga Dermott-Bond. Steve Denehan and Russell Berry were in joint third place.

A competition booklet containing the best of the poems will be published in the first quarter of 2021. All winning entries will be published next year in Chatterbox Magazine along with a selection of the Judges’ Choice poems.

All poems entered for the competition and considered by the judges can be found on the Positive Images Festival website. The link is <https://positiveimagesfestival.co.uk/neighbours> For a video recording of the poetry readings and awards event, the link is <https://youtu.be/jQgGSKI454A>

Positive Images Festival thanks the Events Team of Coventry City Council for the award of a small grant.

\*Emilie Lauren Jones continues to run her highly successful **online poetry workshops**. To hear **Karima Brooke’s** second poem in Urdu, click the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOpB2G2e27E&t=10s> An explanatory

note about Karima's art in the video: The first one shows Faiz Ahmed Faiz (one of the most celebrated writers of the Urdu language), and below him Sabra Bano, who sang the poem in 1974 in the Black Saree Protest and made it famous. The second piece depicts child exploitation at all stages of cotton production.

To hear **Jason N. Smith**, a West Midlands poet, click the link <https://youtu.be/Tc-T65HuHzs> Jason's poetry is influenced by his life experiences.

### *And here is news from our partner organisations...*

---

\***The Albany Theatre** invites people to visit their brand new website [www.albanytheatre.co.uk](http://www.albanytheatre.co.uk)

\***Chat Central's** December newsletter includes the December calendar and information about: a host of fun things to do on-line; outdoor meetings, the new CC4Y project aimed at 16-24 year olds and Christmas Chatty Cafés.

\***Coventry Action for Neighbourhoods** continues to keep us informed about issues through its weekly newsletter.

\***Coventry Libraries** request members to book an appointment to get their bundle of books. Visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/requestlibrarybookbundle](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/requestlibrarybookbundle) or ring 02476832314.

\***Coventry UK City of Culture Trust** has issued its December newsletter, which is full of exciting news.

\*Coventry City Council's **Prevent Team**, in association with Families For Life is offering free online community workshops covering mental health & wellbeing, dealing with traumatic experiences and the challenges of myths and radicalisation. To register, email [madiyah.murshed@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:madiyah.murshed@coventry.gov.uk)  
News from the Council's **Migration Team**: Earlier this year, Coventry City Council and St Francis Church of Assisi partnered to deliver a pre-entry ESOL project called LEAP! Following the success of its September cohort, LEAP is now looking to enrol more clients in January 2021. For more information or to refer a client, please call the Adult Education Service on 07811 02 06 51 or St Francis Employability on 07555 60 75 75. Alternatively, email [leap@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:leap@coventry.gov.uk)

\***Creative Health Meet-Ups** has issued its November newsletter, containing local and national news from the creative health sector.

\*A young tree at the War Memorial Park was transformed into a multilingual World Tree of Peace by the **Godiva Sisters**. The World Tree of Peace film is available on YouTube through the link <https://youtu.be/TQTUYEWdVpo>

\***Foleshill Creates at Home** invites people to register for a place on their free workshops, being delivered in partnership with Orbit, Coventry City of Culture

and Broad Street Hall. Online registration forms are available at <https://forms.gle/2ykoRkbWhFv6H86K9>

\*Friends of the War Memorial Park will mark the park's Centenary Year in 2021 with a year-long celebration involving interested individuals and community organisations. To get involved, please email [100years@fwmpcoventry.org.uk](mailto:100years@fwmpcoventry.org.uk)

\***Herbert Art Gallery & Museum** has circulated information about Arts Award, a nationally recognised qualification for children and young people. For more information, visit [www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk) Following the recent announcement that Coventry will enter tier 3 on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum has decided to remain closed to the public until Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.

\***Hillfields Readers Group** (HRG) has issued its informative December update, which also includes a Historical Novel Quiz.

\***Maokwo's** November newsletter lists information about: their Black History Month event, regular meetings, and work opportunities. For further information, email [pr@maokwo.com](mailto:pr@maokwo.com)

\*From Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, **Sahyadri Friends Group** is offering free online Yoga sessions on Monday 7.00-8.00pm and Wednesday 10.00-10.45am. The registration link is:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdP-w3ZqTv2gF89mjoEk9wvGQmLzTab03YbaBwNZ2v7xIPHMw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdP-w3ZqTv2gF89mjoEk9wvGQmLzTab03YbaBwNZ2v7xIPHMw/viewform?usp=sf_link) Or Message Chaitrali 07466470553.

\***Valley House** is arranging a Big Festive Share (#BigFestiveShare). Working with other charities, Valley House hopes to launch a social media campaign, where they ask for follows, likes and shares on social media platforms. The aim is to increase social media presence and raise awareness of different organisations and charities. To take part, email [Chesney.warwick@valleyhouse.org.uk](mailto:Chesney.warwick@valleyhouse.org.uk)

\*Newsletters have also been issued by **Cook & Eat Well, UNA Coventry Branch** and **Coventry City of Peace**.

### ***For your information/action:***

---

\***Counter Terrorism Policing** has launched a new safeguarding website [www.actearly.uk](http://www.actearly.uk) to encourage family and friends to share concerns, that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

\***Coventry University** is providing free social science research training and qualifications for people in the West Midlands. For more information and to sign, please click the link: <https://fablabcov.coventry.ac.uk/learn-with-us/accredited-courses/lv2-citizen-social-science/>

\*Free **Job Support Skills sessions** will take place every Monday 1.00pm - 3.00pm from 11th January at the Cheylesmore Community Centre. For more info: 07510917517 or [events@learningthroughthearts.co.uk](mailto:events@learningthroughthearts.co.uk)

\***Wriggle Dance Theatre** has created an outdoor show, *Dancing Jukebox Gems*, aimed at older adults who are potentially isolated and/or vulnerable. The performance is free of charge and can be done on driveways, gardens or any other private/public outdoor spaces and will take place in February and March 2021. . Anyone with ideas about possible locations is advised to contact Kath Kimber-McTiffen through email [kath@wriggledancetheatre.co.uk](mailto:kath@wriggledancetheatre.co.uk) or ring her on 0785 4143163.

## *Did you know?*

---

**14<sup>th</sup> December is National Energy Conservation Day.**

**18<sup>th</sup> December is International Migrants Day** (to raise awareness about protection for migrants and refugees)



**Manjit Rehal**, Senior Outreach Practitioner at CRASAC (Coventry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre), has been named as one of Coventry's Heroes.



*Colin Scott*  
**Chair**

*Mehru Fitter*  
**Secretary**

