

POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL

CHAIR'S REPORT 2021

The Chairs Report is unusual in that in 2020 we were not able to run the Festival due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. As I write the report, we are still significantly affected by the lockdown and restrictions which has made planning for 2021 very difficult and sadly has affected how we are able to support the City of Culture 2021. However the Festival has a plan for the rest of 2021 and will support the City of Culture throughout the year until May 2022.

Before looking at the future we need to consider how the Festival has coped since the 2019 Festival, which was the biggest and best celebration we have managed. 2021 will be 27th anniversary of Positive Images and I am certain that once we are able to organise and run the Festival, we will be able to provide another year of fantastic events and activities.

The Festival has never had paid staff or permanent funding and I need to pay tribute to our fantastic volunteers, whether individuals and or from our member community organisations.

In the 2019 Chair' Report I made mention of the fact that Positive Images Festival needed to find ways of sustaining the organisation as we have as ever no organisational funding or support and that we need to finance the Festival through grant funding or sponsorship. Both the sources have over the last two years become very challenging. The good news is that with some successful small funding bids, support from the City of Culture and the re-scheduling of funding from Awards for All in 2020, we are able to run a full year of events from June 2021.

The key event from 2018 was the formation of an Executive Committee with a dozen of our members taking on roles to support this sustainability. We were also joined on the Executive by a representative of the City of Culture, which has made communication between ourselves, the City of Culture and Coventry Welcomes Festival which is an import and significant event in the development of the Festival. However, we have learnt over the last two years, that there is still much more to do and for this year's AGM we are looking to increase the size of the Executive, so that we can support the Festival more effectively and support each other as well.

So despite all the challenges raised by Covid 19 we have developed and explored ways of communicating and holding events virtually over the last year using Zoom and Youtube. I need to pay tribute to members of the Executive and the Festival membership for making sure that we have had a programme of virtual events and regular meetings over the last year. Even when we are able operate normally these facilities and skills will still be needed and developed

At this 'year's AGM we hope that the committee will increase its capacity by welcoming new Executive new members and new posts to develop and sustain the Festival.

So looking to the future the Festival is secure until the summer 2022 and the culmination of the City of Culture I am confident that the Positive Images Festival will endure and prosper and play its part in the city's celebrations.

Thank you

Colin Scott

Chair: Positive Images Festival

15th March 2021