

# POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING

Notes of the Zoom meeting held on 22nd July 2021

## 1 Welcome and Apologies

Chaitrali Chitre (Sahyadri Friends Groups), Donna Bridgewater & Debbie Jones (Hereward College), Eleanor Nesbitt, Diane Hill (Coventry Ambassadors) and Linda Hirons (CAIF)

## 2. Chair's update on Festival Planning for 2021:

Our launch event, the Multicultural Concert of Music and Dance, will be held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July from 7.00pm onwards at the Ukrainian Hall in Leicester Causeway. Colin has been liaising with the Ukrainian Committee to ensure that the event is delivered safely and Covid-19 guidelines are followed. Hand sanitisers will be provided and windows kept open for ventilation. There will be bar service to tables. We hope to have 60 members in the audience. Artistes and volunteers do not form part of this number. Colin was interviewed by BBC CWR at the Festival Gardens along with Iryina King, Ukrainian singer and accordionist and a member of the King Bayab Singers. Everyone is requested to promote the concert.

Our 2 fairs will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September. The Risk Assessment for this event has been submitted to the Council. Stalls are still available.

Mary Courtney has been appointed Artist/Poet in Residence. She will be based at the Central Library and will work 2-3 days a week from 5<sup>th</sup> August to 9<sup>th</sup> October. Funding for this was secured from the Arts Council of England. People will be able to see her. Colin will send information about her availability.

## 3. Programme updates

\***Gabriel Back** has received over 500 entries for the *Climate Change Poster Competition*. The best 3 entries will be exhibited at COP26 in Glasgow. A further 30 will be displayed at Around the World project exhibition in October/November. Also mentioned the national Great Big Butterfly Count, which started on 16<sup>th</sup> July and will end on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Everyone is encouraged to participate and spend 15 minutes outdoors. The website [bigbutterflycount.butterflyconservation.org](http://bigbutterflycount.butterflyconservation.org) gives information about how to take part. One can also download a free chart to identify and record the butterflies. It was suggested that an art project could be based around the theme of butterflies.

\*Maxine Smalling – West Indian Heritage Community Action Group is holding a science event on 27<sup>th</sup> July to enable young people to engage with science.

\***Vicky Taylor** outlined Serco's services available to unemployed people 16+.

\***Kate Hills** mentioned Hillz FM's radio training programmes for different age groups. Is considering a women only programme. Hillz FM is collaborating with BBC CWR for programmes on 7<sup>th</sup> August. On 8<sup>th</sup> August community radio stations will take over

BBC CWR for a day. These 2 events form part of City of Culture programme. Anyone wishing to promote their event/organisation on Hillz FM is requested to contact Kate.

\***Lucy Winter** provided information about Earlsdon Library's Open Day on 31<sup>st</sup> July – storytelling, crochet workshop. The exhibition, *Capturing Coventry*, will be on display in August.

\*Colin mentioned **Donna Bridgewater's** exhibition *Getting through* (about coping with loss), which will be displayed at the Shop Front Theatre.

\*Rosemond mentioned the Beatz Africa event on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

\*BOPA is planning a summer event.

\*Mehru mentioned 2 highly successful events, led by **Emilie Lauren Jones** – *Stories from Our Streets – Styvechale & Finham* and *Blackout Poetry* sessions at Manor Park School.

**4. Volunteer update.** It was recognised that volunteers who work on our posters need a fairly long notice.

#### **5. Information Exchange:**

\***Shabana Sarguro** pointed out the need for extensive promotion prior to an event. Shabana was thanked for her work on Eventbrite links and festival promotion.

\***Colin Scott** – The meeting rooms at the Central Library will be opened up in August. However, their use will be restricted to 2 individuals.

\*Sheila Grainger – 733 volunteers have been recruited as City Hosts. Sheila was thanked for representing PIF at

**6. Date of next meeting** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 12.30pm – 1.30pm (Zoom)

Attendees:

Colin Scott, Chair -Positive Images Festival [positiveimagesfest@yahoo.com](mailto:positiveimagesfest@yahoo.com)

Mehru Fitter, Secretary, Positive Images Festival

Peter Wilford, Coventry Freeman's Guild

Gabrielle Back, Environmental Ambassador

Maxine Smalling, West Indian Heritage Group

Kate Hills, Hillz FM/WATCH

Shabana Sarguro, Festival Publicity Officer

Sheila Grainger, City Host Volunteer Action Group

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Rosemond Nketia, Highlife Centre,

Lucy Winter, Earlsdon Library,

Vicky Taylor, Serco