

POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING

Notes of the Zoom meeting held on 19th August 2021

1 Welcome and Apologies

Chaitrali Chitre (Sahyadri Friends Group), Shabana Sarguro (PIF Festival Publicity Officer), Eleanor Nesbitt, Peter Wilford (Coventry Freeman's Guild), Lucy Winters (Earlsdon Library) Debbie Jones (Hereward College)

2 Report back on Festival Launch 31st July

The Multicultural Concert of Music and Dance was highly successful, with an audience figure of around 100. Everyone enjoyed the programme. As the Lord Mayor was unable to attend due to Covid notification, Pru Porretta welcomed everyone very enthusiastically. Kov Cossacks could not perform as their Friday performance for a City of Culture event was switched to Saturday. There was also a free raffle.

As we will have an extended programme this year, Colin requested the membership for information about new artistes.

3. Summer Celebration in Broadgate, Saturday 4th September

This year the Multicultural Craft & Food Fair and the Community Information Fair will be held on the same day – 4th September from 10.00am to 4.00pm. A couple of stalls are still available. The stage and stalls will be at 2 different ends of Broadgate. A First Aider will be present. Performers include: a Tai Chi group, musicians, Sahyadri Friendship Group dancers, Kadence Drummers, Morris Men, The Sojourners and a rapper.

City of Culture Trust is unable to participate. However, Sheila Grainger has very kindly agreed to coordinate the roving presence of City Hosts.

4. Programme updates:

Colin Scott: An evening of music and poetry, to be held on 23rd October, will be facilitated by Laura Potts, who will invite regional and national poets to the event.

Mary Courtney, our Artist in Residence, continues to hold workshops at the Central Library, where people can discuss their own arts projects and attend Making Faces Project workshops. The attendance is very encouraging.

Our Peace Festival Poetry Competition will be held from 1st to 31st October. Information about this year's theme is awaited from Manjit Kaur. The Awards Ceremony will be held on 14th November.

This year's booklet of entries will be dedicated to Jack Kerr, a regular member of the PIF Poetry Workshops with his wife Gerda, and also a well known local poet.

Kate Hills will hold monthly craft workshops for mental health and wellbeing.

Gabrielle Back will hold environmental workshops – one in October and 2 in spring. Her Climate Change poster competition attracted over 700 entries, some of which will be exhibited at Holy Trinity Church in October. It is hoped to hold a viewing launch event on 8th October.

Gabrielle is also launching the Tree Project in schools and community organisations, urging people to plant trees to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Gabrielle also hopes to get people to sign a Climate Change Card.

Linda Hiron mentioned *Amal's Walk*, taking place on 25th October. Amal, a puppet, will travel across Europe and come to Coventry, where her journey will cover Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre and the Cathedral Ruins and culminate with a light show. It is hoped that members of PIF will support the event.

Linda also mentioned that a funding bid for the Coventry-Dresden Festival has been unsuccessful. However, the links between our 2 cities will be celebrated.

Manjit Kaur mentioned an event coordinated by the Sacred Space project. The event, involving faith communities, will be held on Sunday 12th September.

Three themes have been suggested for this year's Poetry Competition. The final choice of theme will be made in early September.

Martin Mellet's Tai Chi group is performing at the fair.

5. Volunteer Update:

One expression of interest in volunteering for us has been received. 4 Executive Committee members have indicated their availability to help staff Positive Images Festival stall.

6. Information Exchange and any other business:

Mehru – visited 3 events: Coloured Synergy Festival, which brought together 3 multicultural festivals – Embrace Africa, Sahyadri Colours of India and Caribbean Cultural Festival; Eastern European Community Festival; and *Getting through this* exhibition. Emilie's poetry workshops continue to do well. The August workshop will be virtual. It is hoped to hold the September workshop at the Central Library. If necessary, there could also be a virtual version.

In response to **Manjit Rihal's** request, Manjit Kaur, Maxine and Martine provided information about services available from their organisations.

7. Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd September, 12.30 – 1.30pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Colin Scott, Chair -Positive Images Festival positiveimagesfest@yahoo.com

Mehru Fitter, Secretary, Positive Images Festival

Gabrielle Back, Environmental Ambassador

Maxine Smalling, West Indian Heritage Group

Sheila Grainger, City Host Volunteer Action Group

Martin Mellett, Tai Chi Group

Manjit Kaur, Adult Education/SACRE

Manjit Rihal, CRASAC

Lind Hirons, CAIF