

POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL PLANNING ZOOM MEETING

held on 23 September 2021

1 Welcome and Apologies

Sandeep Viridi (Community Co-ordinator); Faye Pettitt (FWT) and Eleanor Nesbitt, Chaitrali Chitre, Emilie Lauren Jones Kate Hills

2 Report back on Festival Launch & Feedback on the Summer Celebration in Broadgate:

Festival launch: A report has already been circulated about the Multicultural Concert – our launch event held at the Ukrainian Hall. We were extremely pleased with the attendance and the acts. We thank the Ukrainian community for its assistance with compliance measures re: Covid-19. Thanks are also due to Shabana Sarguro, who did her utmost for publicity.

Summer Celebration, 4th September: A report has already been circulated. It was wonderful to know that 3 stalls had received more than 200 visitors. 2 suggestions made by stallholders were discussed – alcohol licence and toilet provision. The meeting felt that for a family event such as ours the sale of alcohol would not be appropriate. Peter Wilford pointed out that there were ample alcohol outlets in the city centre. Diane Hill suggested contacting the City Council/City Centre Management for a list of public toilets in the city centre, including Changing Places facilities. Manjit Rihal mentioned the need for a clear demarcation for shared stalls. We missed variety in food stalls as some regulars decided against participation because of Covid-19.

3 Poetry Evening and the Peace Festival Poetry competition:

A *Poetry Evening* will be held at the Tin Music and Arts, Canal Basin, on 23rd October. We hope to have some music at the event.

Our *Peace Festival Poetry Competition* will be held from 1st to 31st October. The theme is *Faith, Hope and Love*. PIF will handle the adult section of the competition. Under 16s from Coventry & Warwickshire schools will compete in the section for young people. The judging panel will have 3 judges, including a previous winner. The award ceremony will be held on 20th November at the Central Methodist Hall.

Detailed information about both events will be circulated shortly.

4. Programme Updates:

**Gabrielle Back* – 2 exhibitions – Climate Change Poster Competition and Around the World Recycling Project, will be displayed at Holy Trinity Church from October onwards. Informal viewing – 8th October from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. Information about the exhibition will be circulated shortly.

**Debbie Jones* – has received feedback about the photography exhibition at Earlsdon Library, from where it is moving to Foleshill Library.

**Maxine Smalling* – West Indian Community Action Group celebrates Black History Month and is launching its 1st FREE pop up cinema screening of BLACK PANTHER on 28th October 2021, in the Chapter House, Coventry Cathedral, accessible to all from Priory Street. Doors open at 7pm, refreshments will be available. Tickets will be available to book through City of Culture website. Join us and watch a multiple award-winning film where T'Challa, heir to Wakanda, must lead his people into a new future. Directed by Ryan Coogler

**Rosemond Nketia* – Mentioned events, forming part of Afro-Culture Festival: *The Living Culture Exhibition; Black Business Expo; Sankofa African Couture; Reclaim* – a youth conference; and *Regenerate* – a performing arts piece. For information about times and venues, visit www.thisisafrica2021.co.uk

**Sheila Grainger* – Provided an update on the number of City Hosts and expressed the hope that Positive Images Festival would continue to co-ordinate events post City of Culture Year. She felt that walking round the city and talking to people created greater awareness about the City of Culture and volunteering opportunities.

**Colin Scott* – Mary Courtney, our Artist in Residence, continues to hold art and craft workshops, which attract people from a range of backgrounds and age brackets usually Thursdays and Fridays 1.00pm – 4.00pm. Check website for up to date details. PIF members are encouraged to visit the Central Library and talk to Mary and see the scope of her Coventry Grotesques.

5. Volunteer update:

Mehru expressed her appreciation for the wonderful work done by our volunteers on 4th September. Although some PIF members had indicated their availability for just a few hours on the day, they worked very long hours. Additional volunteers were made available by Manjit Rihal, VAC and Coventry University.

A request for volunteering with us has just been received.

6. Information Exchange and any other business:

**Gabrielle Back* – Mentioned the *Billion Seeds Challenge* project. The challenge is to plant one billion seeds to highlight the importance of COP 26. Homebase will provide 50% of seeds in all their UK stores. Planting can be done throughout October.

Gabrielle is hoping to arrange workshops in spring 2022.

**Colin Scott* – anyone interested in delivering workshops is requested to contact him. Mentioned Dr. Nor Aziz's highly successful Canley Big Lunch, attended by 700 people. Also informed the meeting about Kate Hills' women only workshops, starting in October.

**Mehru Fitter* – thanked Karen Berry for all the work on our website.

7. Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th October from 12.30pm to 2.00pm. The October meeting will be via zoom. We hope that in November we can meet in person. Maxine Smalling suggested a hybrid meeting so that those unable to attend could participate online.

Attendees:

Colin Scott, Chair, Positive Images Festival positiveimagesfest@yahoo.com
Mehru Fitter, Secretary, Positive Images Festival mehru.fitter@btinternet.com
Gabrielle Back, Environmental Ambassador
Maxine Smalling, West Indian Heritage Group
Sheila Grainger, City Host Volunteer Action Group
Diane Hill, Coventry Ambassadors
Peter Wilford, Coventry Freeman's Guild
Manjit Rihal, CRASAC
Debbie Jones, Hereward College
Rosemond Nketia, Highlife Centre