



# POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL calling...

Welcome to your September 2021 update

## *Our news:*

---

### **\*The month began with our 2021 Multicultural Craft and Food Fair & Community Information Fair.**

Information provision and Coventry's vibrant cultural heritage were highlighted at the joint **Multicultural Craft and Food Fair & Community Information Fair**, held in Broadgate on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September. What came as a surprise was that in spite of other major events such as the Godiva Festival going on at the same time, the fair still attracted a fair number of visitors.

25 organisations participated in the fair and filled in evaluation questionnaires. A report of the findings is available on request.

At the Positive Images Festival stall, we ran "*Guess the number of sweets*" competition, which attracted 103 entries. A visitor to our stall provided the following feedback:

"This was an enriching experience. My favourite aspect of the event was "the diversity on display, performances and meeting the positive citizens of Coventry."

The Lord Mayor, Councillor John McNicholas, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, June McNicholas, launched the fair at noon and visited stalls.

The varied entertainment programme of dance and songs attracted huge crowds.

The organisation of this year's fair proved to be very challenging as we had to wait for the lifting of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. This uncertainty caused some of our regular participants to pull out.

We thank: Coventry City Council's Events Team and the Environmental Health Officer for guidance provided; participants; the technical team; and our volunteers, who worked exceptionally hard to ensure the smooth running of the fair.

We end the report with an extremely positive comment passed on to us by one of the participants:

"The public fed back how much they had enjoyed the event. Quite a few visitors to our stall were from out of town - Leamington Spa, London and Rugby. They were visiting Coventry and to see our stalls there was an unexpected surprise. Coventry residents said the same - an unexpected surprise!"

\*On the same day, Prior Deram Park was the setting for **Canley Big Lunch**, held from 12.00 noon to 4.00pm. Within the space of 4 hours, 700 visitors, representing the diversity of Coventry, were welcomed. The presence of large numbers of young people was a remarkable feature of the event.

An elated Dr Nor Aziz, the organiser of this annual event, remarked: ' This is our fifth community big lunch event and the best so far. We had over 700 visitors which had doubled previous number of people attending. Also, we had an encouraging increase in the number of teenagers involved and contributing to this was the activities we had provided to cater for this age group. The assault course provided by Eventurous proved to be very popular - we had Mums and daughters, siblings and many others queuing from start to finish. Everyone had a great time and had shown a great sense of community spirit."

\***Around the World and The Climate Change Poster Competition** exhibition will be on display at Holy Trinity Church from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November. Please check church opening times.

\***Mary Courtney**, our Artist in Residence, continues to hold her workshops at the Central Library. And here is a comment from a visitor: "I had an excellent and extremely informative chat at the Central Library with Mary today about the grotesques and the green men of Coventry. It's hard to believe there are so many in and on our city buildings. We really must spread the word about them and their whereabouts."

Any group that would like an art/craft session is requested to contact her [marycourtneyart@gmail.com](mailto:marycourtneyart@gmail.com)

\*The next free monthly **poetry workshop**, led by Emilie Lauren Jones, will be held at the Central Library on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 1.00pm to 3.30pm.

\*We are also arranging **craft and wellbeing sessions**, led by Kate Hills. Information about dates, times and the venue will be circulated shortly.

\*A free **poetry evening** will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, from 7.00pm to 9.30pm at Tin Music & Arts, Canal Basin. Further information will appear on our website [www.positiveimagesfestival.co.uk](http://www.positiveimagesfestival.co.uk)

**As we will continue our celebrations right up to May 2022, please continue to send us information about your events**

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

---

\*The **Albany Theatre's** August newsletter contains information about exciting events and unmissable shows in August and September.

\***Active Central** has released its Thursday programme of activities aimed at 18+ for the period September-December. Activities take place at Warwick Road United Reformed Church Centre. For further information, visit [www.vacoventry.org.uk/page/active-central](http://www.vacoventry.org.uk/page/active-central) To book, call 07541 343491 or email [activecentral@vacoventry.org.uk](mailto:activecentral@vacoventry.org.uk)

\***The Coventry-Dresden Friendship Festival of the Arts 2021**, co-ordinated by a consortium comprising: Coventry Association for International Friendship (CAIF), John Yeadon's Coventry/Dresden Arts Exchange, Roze Navab's Twin Studios Project and Mark Cook, historian of Coventry and its Twin Cities, will be held from 6-20 November.

\*As part of Integrate Coventry, **FWT** is offering free online workshops every Friday 11.00am – 12.00 noon to support Refugee and Leave to Remain Women. This includes the monthly Covid-19 and Vaccine Awareness workshop.

\***The Highlife Centre** has provided information about the Afro-Future Festival, taking place during Black History Month. Exciting events taking place during Black History Month – 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October: *The Living Culture Exhibition* 1<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October (except 16<sup>th</sup> October); *Black Business Expo* from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October; *Sankofa African Couture* – a fashion show on 16<sup>th</sup> October; Drum Circle on 23<sup>rd</sup> October; *Reclaim* – a youth conference on 30<sup>th</sup> October; *Regenerate* – a performing arts piece (30<sup>th</sup> October), which tells the “Black story” from the beginning to the present times. For information about times and venues, please visit [www.thisisafrica2021.co.uk](http://www.thisisafrica2021.co.uk)

\***Sue Pountney's** New Quiz Session will start on the weekend of 30/31 October and continue until 26/27 March. If you would like to receive Quiz questions, please email [positiveimagesfest@yahoo.com](mailto:positiveimagesfest@yahoo.com)

\***VIRTUAL SINGING FOR THE BRAIN** meet every Wednesday, from 11.00am to 1.00pm on zoom. This is an opportunity to sing (and hear) vintage Bollywood & Lollywood songs, ghazals, etc. It's a chance to see old friends and make new ones, and to keep one's brain stimulated by remembering favourite songs from the past. The group aims to alleviate loneliness for the over 50s and inform each other about rapid changes in the current Pandemic situation. The group also tackles fake news against the vaccinations, etc. and shares materials, videos and information from the Community Resilience Team, providing the latest advice on staying safe. The group has been a lifeline for elderly people, and it will continue to meet online till the end of 2021, after which the situation will be assessed. The group would love to welcome some new members with interest in singing.

Please contact Tahera Fazal or Jeetubhai Shah for more information about how to join: Tahera Fazal (Mob: 07984330030, email: [taherafazal@gmail.com](mailto:taherafazal@gmail.com)); Jeetubhai Shah on Mob: 07775301778

\*WEA is starting 3 new courses in September: Early Years Initial Assessment, Practical IT skills and Practical Maths Skills. For further information, contact Rabia, mob 07787684959, [rraja@wea.org.uk](mailto:rraja@wea.org.uk)

## *Culture Noticeboard...*

---

\*Coventry City of Culture Trust has released information about September highlights.

\*Coventry City of Culture Trust invites applications from interested individuals to be community connectors (individuals or groups) who have a passion for their area and its residents. For further information, please visit

[www.coventry2021.co.uk/connectors](http://www.coventry2021.co.uk/connectors)

\*The Trust, which is working with **Twin Studios Project CIC**, is requesting people to submit photos which show “What makes your city home”. These photos will be converted into QR codes and printed onto a giant tablecloth to celebrate Coventry’s relationship with Volgograd. Each participant is requested to submit a photo with a completed application form by filling in the online form - <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/774353df10254b898bd508d32e9bf91c>

\*In preparation for the **Carnival of Lights** in November, Foleshill Creates is arranging free workshops in September and October. For further information and to sign up for updates, please visit [www.foleshillcreates.co.uk](http://www.foleshillcreates.co.uk)

## *For your information and action...*

---

\***Clothing Coventry**, a new charity supporting people in need of clothes in Coventry, is appealing to people to share the charity’s Facebook appeals

[www.facebook.com/ClothingCoventry](http://www.facebook.com/ClothingCoventry)

\*Coventry author **Alison Mukherjee’s** fifth novel, “*What’s going on at the Whitley*” – an unusual crime story, has just been published. To acquire a copy, please email Alison [alsmkrjee@outlook.com](mailto:alsmkrjee@outlook.com)

\***The Prince’s Trust**, in association with Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, is organising an online taster day (about working in the NHS) on 5<sup>th</sup> October, aimed at people aged 18-30, not in education, employment or training. For further information, text Junaid 07870 883 349 or email [junaid.darr@princes-trust.org.uk](mailto:junaid.darr@princes-trust.org.uk)

\***Walk with Amal** arrives in Coventry on 27<sup>th</sup> October. Amal, a puppet, will walk across European countries to shed light on the stories of millions of young refugees. For further information, please visit [www.walkwithamal.org/the-journey/](http://www.walkwithamal.org/the-journey/)

Colin Scott, Chair

Mehru Fitter, Secretary

SUPPORTED BY

