

POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING

Minutes of the Zoom meeting held on 14th October 2021

1 Welcome and Apologies

Chaitrali Chitre (Sahyadri Friends Group), Eleanor Nesbitt, Manjit Kaur, Emilie Lauren Jones (Publicity & Promotions), Diane Hill (Coventry Ambassadors), Caroline Hobday (Tourist Information), Pru Porretta (Godiva Trust), Surinder Dhillon, Nicola Smith (VAC), Nor Aziz (Canley Stakeholders), Maxine Smalling (West Indian Heritage Group), Rosemond Nketia (The Highlife Centre)

2. Positive Images Festival events:

*A **Free Poetry Celebration**, featuring national and local poets, will be held on Saturday 23rd October from 7.00pm to 9.30pm at the Central Methodist Hall. Emilie Lauren Jones, Coventry's Poet Laureate, will be the compere. During the interval, there will be an open mic session.

*20 entries have been received for **Positive Images Festival's Peace Poetry Competition**, which runs up to 31st October. The judging panel is made up of Emilie Lauren Jones, Kate Hills and the winner of the 2020 poetry competition. The Awards ceremony will be held on 20th November 7.00pm-9.30pm at the Central Methodist Hall.

*Kate Hills is conducting a **free arts & crafts workshop** every month at WATCH.

3. Programme updates from attendees:

**Gabrielle Back* – The launch of *Around the World* and *Climate Change Poster* exhibition was held at Holy Trinity Church on 8th October and visited by 50 people, some of whom described the exhibits as “fantastic” and “superb”. The exhibition runs until the end of November. Gabrielle will run her creative workshops on environmental themes in February/March.

**Peter Wilford* – Cathy Renken, the illustrator of Coventry's Medieval Story, could be involved in art and craft workshops.

**Shabana Sarguro* – Has arranged interviews with the media.

4. Festival outline:

Colin mentioned a finale event, to which we will invite artists who have taken part in our programmes and participants of workshops led by Kate Hills and Gabrielle Back. This will be held in May.

5 Plans for Positive Images Festival's future

Colin informed the meeting that he and Mehru would be stepping down as Chair and Secretary respectively mid-2022. Kate Hills, currently our Vice Chair, will take over as Chair. Colin will provide assistance re: finance. Colin stressed the importance of

the role of a secretary. Mehru suggested opting for a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary. An EGM will be held January/February 2022.

6. Volunteer update:

We have received 3 requests from Coventry University students, who are interested in volunteering for PIF. They have been made aware of our poetry event on 23rd October. Their response is awaited. Mehru pointed out that the situation re: volunteers was slightly better when face to face meetings were arranged.

7. Information exchange and any other business:

**Gabrielle Back* – Last year the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. She will keep us informed about plans for this year.

* *Sheila Grainger* mentioned her involvement with the Commonwealth Games – she will assist the organising committee with the recruitment of volunteers.

**Mehru Fitter*:

-*Singing for the Brain* group celebrated National Poetry Day, with the reading of poems by famous writers from South Asia and the viewing of a YouTube video. Attendees enjoyed this zoom meeting.

-*Mary Courtney*, our Artist in Residence, is doing very well at the Central Library. She addressed a packed meeting of Coventry Society about Grotosques in Coventry.

-Visited the Living Culture Exhibition at Wava Hall. Was impressed by the exhibition as well as the centre. A visit is highly recommended.

-Thanked Peter Wilford for the publicity given to PIF in Coventry Freeman's Guild's latest publication.

-For events taking place during the City of Culture Year and not supported by the City of Culture Trust, the right logo to use is **Taking place in**. The logo has been attached.

-At a meeting held recently, an attendee expressed the hope that at the end of Coventry's Year as City of Culture UK, PIF would take on the role of coordinator on the city's cultural scene.

**Colin Scott*:

-It is hoped that a selection of items from Mary Courtney's workshops could form part of an exhibition that could move around.

-Peter Wilford was thanked for the reprint of Coventry Literary Trail booklets, which will be sold at the Tourist Information Centre and Holy Trinity Church and possibly in libraries.

7. Date of next meeting: 18th November 12.30pm – 2.00pm. Location – Central Library. However, we cannot have more than 10 attendees. Shabana suggested a

hybrid meeting, requiring a laptop and the library's wi-fi. Shabana is ready to help. Perhaps a similar set up could be considered for the Poetry Competition Awards Ceremony.

Attendees:

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

Mehru Fitter, Secretary, Positive Images Festival mehru.fitter@btinternet.com

Gabrielle Back, Environmental Ambassador gabrielle@back.f9.co.uk

Sheila Grainger, City Host Volunteer Action Group sheilagrainger@virginmedia.com

Shabana Sarguro, Festival Publicity Officer ssarguro@yahoo.com

Peter Wilford, Coventry Freeman's Guild, peter.wilford@talktalk.net