



# POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL calling...

## Welcome to our December 2021 update

### *Our news:*

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\***Mary Courtney's** three month residency as Artist in Residence at the Central Library ended in the last week of October. Mary held 24 afternoon sessions, attended by a total of 380 people, reflecting Coventry's diversity. The project, promoted as "Making Faces", took off in a big way. Here is a comment made by a visiting group: "The people we invited to create grotesques with Mary had a fantastic experience. Mary's warmth and enthusiasm were infectious."

*A detailed report about the residency is available on request.*

\*Positive Images Festival's Peace poetry competition on the theme of **Faith, Hope and Love** attracted a record 93 entries from Coventry, other cities in UK, Warwickshire and from abroad. The **judging panel**, comprising Emilie Lauren Jones – Coventry Poet Laureate, Kate Hills - Vice Chair of Positive Images Festival and Joe Reynolds – the 2020 Competition winner, was highly impressed by the incredibly high quality of poems.

\*The **award ceremony**, held at the Central Methodist Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> November, was very ably compered by Emilie. The **winner** was Dangermouse aka Scott Healy, who received a prize of £100.00. Two runners up received £60.00 each and 6 highly commended entries £30.00 each.

Attendees provided very positive feedback, their favourite aspects of the event being the celebration of local writers and food – especially samosas!

Two wonderful Coventry University **volunteers** – Simona Pustova and Dominika Gorelik welcomed our visitors and staffed our stall.

A booklet containing an entry from each of the participants will be published in 2022. A selection of poems will also appear in the Chatterbox Magazine.

*A detailed report will be circulated shortly.*

\*Fargo Village was the setting for 2 workshops and a performance event, forming part of our ambitious **When Music Meets Poetry** series, facilitated by Raef Boylan.

Andrea Mbarushimana and Mahendra Patel, leaders of the **first workshop**, spoke about their collaboration as poet and musician and performed an unrehearsed piece. Each poet was paired with a musician. They collaborated, performed and got feedback.

In the **second workshop**, John John Bernard requested participants to write a poem on the theme of love and Amy Kakoura played a melody and introduced participants to ways of creating an ambience.

11 participants from the workshops participated in the performance event on 21<sup>st</sup> November. The poets and musicians engaged very confidently. The audience was excited to hear that Positive Images Festival had planned more workshops and performances in 2022.

Some of the comments received: A great event; attendance via Zoom; the possibility of including visual arts as well; an excellent opportunity for collaboration between professional artists and non-professional creatives.

*A detailed report available on request.*

\*Positive Images Festival is commissioning 10 local, emerging artists to create a piece of work for the **Positive Images and Words** exhibition in March 2022. The theme of the project 'eco-friendliness' should be reflected in the piece you want to create; we are especially keen to see recycled materials being used. Successful artists will be paid £350. Application deadline: Midnight on Friday 17th December 2021. Please email expressions of interest to Emilie: [emilielaurenwriter@gmail.com](mailto:emilielaurenwriter@gmail.com) and include:

Up to three examples of previous artworks;

Explain in up to 300 words (or a 2-minute video clip) any previous art experience and why you would like to take part;

Explain in up to 200 words (or a 2-minute video clip) what you would like to create for this project with.

For further information or any questions regarding accessibility, please contact Emilie on [emilielaurenwriter@gmail.com](mailto:emilielaurenwriter@gmail.com) or 078 0510 4743.

\*The next **Positive Images Festival planning meeting** will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 from 12.30pm to 2.00pm via Zoom. We wish everyone a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

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

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\***Arty-Folks**, which has just turned 26 years old, has issued its first newsletter, containing an inspiring story and information about courses.

\***Chat Central's** Chatty Lunch will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am – 12.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Warwick Road.

\***Christmas In Africa**, aimed at 5-11 year olds, will be celebrated through storytelling and many engaging activities from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December, at Wava Hall, 31 Barras

Green, CV2 4LY. To register your child on first come first served basis, contact Garcia on 07453 323407.

\***Coventry Action for Neighbourhoods'** newsletters cover: the restoration and reuse of previously empty buildings; the 5 groups/collectives shortlisted for the Turner Prize 2021; Coventry's independent museums; Whitefriars Monastery; historic buildings in Spon End; Longford Park and Allesley Park tree planting; **Peace is free** – a 15 year old Bangladeshi girl's prize-winning entry for Coventry International Young People's Peace Essay competition; Coventry City Council's bulky waste collection service.

\***Coventry Irish Society** is hoping to relocate to St. Osburg's Parish Centre in Upper Hill Street. It needs £50,000 to refurbish the premises. Cash or cheques made payable to Coventry Irish Society can be handed in at 41 Smithford Way, Coventry, CV1 1FY. Fundraising page <https://localgiving.org/charity/coventry-irish-society/>

\*News from **Coventry Libraries** -Launched by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall on 25<sup>th</sup> May, One Million Reads Coventry is aiming to reach 1,000,000 reads by May 2022. The current number of reads: 464, 283. The November newsletter has information about: Allesley Park Library's display for *The History of the World in 25 Cities*, staff book picks.-Information about the national competition **Inspiring Women of the World**, arranged by The Reading Agency and publisher Saqi Books is available from libraries.-Reminiscence sessions are held at Tile Hill Library on the last Thursday of each month.

\***Coventry Peace News** December newsletter highlights: Coventry Lord Mayor's Peace Lecture 2021; MyCoventry's programmes for migrant integration; Coventry Tree of World Peace Poem ...

\***Coventry Pride** are on the lookout for 6 new trustees and 20 operational volunteers.

\*This month, in its new series *Motor Minute*, **Coventry Transport Museum** highlights Jaguar E-Type Motor Car.

\***FWT** is arranging women only workshops about family finances in January 2022. For more information and to book your place, please contact Faye Pettitt on 07538092997 or email [faye.pettitt@fwt.org.uk](mailto:faye.pettitt@fwt.org.uk)

\*The Turner Prize exhibition can be viewed at **The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum** up to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022. To book free tickets, please visit [https://www.theherbert.org/whats\\_on/1560/turner\\_prize\\_2021](https://www.theherbert.org/whats_on/1560/turner_prize_2021)

Coventry City of Culture Trust and the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum are delighted to present "*Be Yourself; Everyone Else Is Already Taken*" by the Coventry born artist, designer and activist Daniel Lismore. This exhibition in his hometown is the first time that his work has gone on display in the UK.

\***United Nations Association Coventry Branch** December newsletter informs readers about: the inclusion of Climate Change in the education system; winners of Coventry International Young People's Peace Essay Competition 2021; Coventry Climate Action Network (CovCAN)'s peace and climate pledge posters, etc.

\*Coventry's **West Indian Community Action (WICA)** presents *The Greatest Showman* at Canley Community Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

## ***Culture Noticeboard...***

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**Coventry City of Culture Trust:**

\*is inviting applications from people who are interested in becoming **City Hosts**. For more information, please visit [www.coventry2021.co.uk/get-involved/city-hosts/](http://www.coventry2021.co.uk/get-involved/city-hosts/)

\*has announced its plan for **Window Wanderland 2022**. In early 2022, streets across Coventry and Warwickshire will once again light up their front window and gardens. For more information, please visit <https://coventry2021.co.uk/what-s-on/window-wanderland-2022/>

\*has announced its **Theatre Next Door** programme, involving exciting interactive shows performed by Theatre Next Door at local community centres. For more information, please visit <https://coventry2021.co.uk/theatre-next-door/>

## *Did you know?*

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**18<sup>th</sup> November** was **Equal Pay Campaign Day**.

## *For your information/action...*

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\*Grapevine is inviting interested individuals to join a **local assembly on climate change**. Contact Jess to get involved or if you'd like to know more. Email [jpinson@grapevinecovandwarks.org](mailto:jpinson@grapevinecovandwarks.org) or call her on 07989 395 446.

\***Wellness Junction** is holding its Christmas celebration 11.00am-2.00pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> December at Broad Street Meeting Hall, 124 Broad Street, Coventry, CV6 5BG.

\*The dates for **Refugee Week 2022** – 14 to 20 June



**Tin Music & Arts** has received grant funding from *Coventry City Council's Cultural Capital Investment Programme* and *Arts Council England's Supporting Grassroots Live Music* for refurbishment.

*Colin Scott*  
**Chair**



*Mehru Fitter*  
**Secretary**

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