



Positive Images Peace Festival Poetry Competition 2021 Report

Positive Images Festival's poetry competition on the theme of ***Faith, Hope and Love*** attracted a record 93 entries from Coventry, Warwickshire, Durham, Aberdeen, London, The Republic of Ireland, India and USA. We also received a poem from a resident in a care home in Coventry and a group poem from a Coventry-based organisation.

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 submitted. This made judging very challenging.



← *The judging panel – from (l) Kate Hills, Emilie Lauren Jones, Joe Reynolds*

The **award ceremony**, held at the Central Methodist Hall on 20th November, was very ably compered by Emile Lauren Jones. It began with the reading of poems submitted. Each reading was followed by a thunderous applause.

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.



Participants reciting their poem in the splendid setting of the Central Methodist Hall



Attendees found this an enriching experience and provided the following written feedback:

Their favourite aspect of this event:

- *Local people reading out their poems
- *The friendly atmosphere, interacting with poets and everything
- *The poem reading was very well done by all the readers. The food was good too.
- *Everything
- *Celebration of writers. Event open to all. No charge. Very encouraging
- *Meeting people
- *The range of poems
- *Food - the samosas were fabulous.

Suggestions for improvement:

- *Nothing at all
- *A brilliant event. Emilie is an excellent compere.
- *Keep doing what you did.
- *Getting local children involved (This individual was informed that Positive Images Festival ran the over 16s competition and that Coventry and Warwickshire Education Services ran the under 16s competition.)
- *The festival is always good. More literature events would be nice.

We were very lucky to have two wonderful Coventry University **volunteers** – Simona Pustova and Dominika Gorelik, who staffed our display, received visitors and registered them. Our 47 visitors showed a keen interest in our display of booklets of past poetry competitions.

The Winners, Runners Up and Highly Commended and the best of the Competition entries, as agreed by the Judging Panel, will have their entries published in Chatterbox Magazine.

In addition, one entry per person, as agreed by the Judging Panel, will feature in the Poetry Competition booklet which will be available in early 2022. All the entries to the Competition will be entitled to three copies of the booklet at no charge, once the booklet has been published.

The poems are available to read on our website www.positiveimagesfestival.co.uk

We thank **Coventry City Council's Events Team** for the small grant awarded to us. Thanks are also due to the editor of Chatterbox Magazine – Christine Jones, for the publication of selected competition entries and for her ongoing support over the years.

Mehru Fitter MBE

Secretary

Positive Images Festival