

POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022

The last year has been one of contrasts, with fantastically successful indoor and outdoor activities for the City of Culture, organised by the Festival organisers and all our partner community organisations and friends, whilst trying to mitigate the Covid 19 effect on our volunteers, partners and artists. So in brief we have run:

- The Festival Launch and Multicultural Concert of Music and Dance at the Ukrainian Hall on July 29th.
- The Summer Outdoor Celebration in Broadgate on the 4th September which included the Community Information Fair and the Craft and Food Fair
- The Monthly Poetry Workshops run by Emilie Lauren Jones, Coventry's Poet Laureate.
- The Coventry Peace Festival Competition and Awards Event in October and November
- The Poetry Event at the Central Hall on the 23rd October
- The Poetry Meets Music workshops and performance run at Fargo and organised by Raef Boylan during November.
- The Artist in Residence with Mary Courtney with her project Making Faces at the Central Library from August to October.
- Plus many other events and activities run by our partners. More information on all these events and activities will be in the Annual Report compiled by Mehru Fitter. So I need to give a special thanks to our volunteers the Festival Committee and all the fantastic artists who have made the last year so special.

All this has been achieved for the Festival which has never had paid staff or permanent funding and I need to pay tribute to our fantastic volunteers, whether individuals and or from our member community organisations.

In the 2021 Chair' Report I made mention of the fact that Positive Images Festival needed to find ways of sustaining the organisation as we have as ever no organisational funding or support and that we need to finance the Festival through grant funding or sponsorship. Both the sources have over the last two years become very challenging. The key event from 2018 was the formation of an Executive Committee with a dozen of our members taking on roles to support this sustainability and this will be strengthened with a new Chair and a new Executive Committee at the end of March 2022 and which will come into effect at the end of the City of Culture in May.

This year after 28 years from the inception of the Festival I will be standing down as Chair, and will be succeeded by Kate Hills, the current Vice Chair, and Mehru Fitter, the Festival Secretary will also stand down at the end of May 2022. We hope to announce a new Executive Committee at the end of March and I am sure they will carry the Positive Images Festival through to a successful future.

Colin Scott

Chair: Positive Images Festival

18th March 2022