



POSITIVE IMAGES FESTIVAL calling... Welcome to our May 2022 update

Our news:

***Planning meetings:** Our first in person meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 May, with an additional Zoom meeting on Thursday 19 May. From June onwards, all Positive Images Festival planning meetings will be held in person at the Central Library, Smithford Way, on a Tuesday from 12.30pm to 2.00pm. Here are the dates for meetings from June to December: 21 June, 19 July, 23 August, 20 September, 18 October, 22 November and 13 December.

*Saturday 21st May marks Positive Images Festival's finale event, **Poetry Meets Music**, at Tin Music and Arts, Canal Basin from 7.00pm to 10pm. We will be joined by the fabulous Sarah Fletcher and Coventry's own Shahnaz Akhter and special guest performers from the local poetry and music scene. There will also be open mic slots for poets and musicians.

For more information about this free event, see www.positiveimagesfestival.co.uk or email positiveimagesfest@gmail.com

*Our **Annual General Meeting** took place on 24th March 1.15pm – 2.00pm and on 31st March 6.00pm – 7.00pm. Here is the list of members of the new committee, which will take over from the beginning of June:

Chair: Kate Hills

Vice Chair: Emilie Lauren Jones

Treasurer: Colin Scott

Website Manager: Karen Berry

Publicity Officer – Team Post: Kate Hills, Emilie Lauren Jones, Colin Scott, Shabana Sarguro, Alexandra Berry

Community Liaison Officer: Sandeep Virdi

Environmental Officer: Gabrielle Back

Newsletter Officer: Peter Wilford

Volunteer Support Officer: Shabana Sarguro

Social Media Liaison Officer: Shabana Sarguro

Vacant posts include: Secretary, Festival Communications Officer, Project Management Officer, Funding Support Officer, Health & Safety Officer, Community Liaison Support Officer and Training Officer

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And here is news from our partner organisations...

*Through its newsletter, **Coventry Action for Neighbourhoods** (CAN) continues to keep us informed about events and exhibitions and initiatives such as the *Walk to School* initiative

***Chat Central** has released a packed programme of stimulating activities right up to 8th June. Also included in the April newsletter is information about events/activities arranged by other organisations. And to enable people to keep their minds in excellent shape, Chat Central has also included a word search. Contact:

d.sithole@vacoventry.org.uk

*Highlights from **Coventry City of Peace** May newsletter: Coventry Restorative Stories; forthcoming peace-related events; Refugee Week 2022 and much more.

Women in Motorsport* exhibition can be viewed at **Coventry Transport Museum up to Sunday 29 May.

***FWT** is hosting some story and rhymetime sessions with Indy from the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum. These women only sessions for mums, babies and toddlers will be held every Wednesday up to 1 June 2022 from 1.00pm to 2.00pm. For more information contact Indy i.donald@culturecoventry.com or Jo at FWT on 07950 813581.

FWT is also starting 4 new finance women only workshops, delivered by Central England Law Centre, Coventry. These free sessions, which start at FWT on Monday 6 June 1.00pm – 2.30pm, will help attendees to look at their household and family finances.

*The **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum's** exhibition, *Grown up in Britain: 100 years of Teenage Kicks*, will run from 1 July to 30 October. It will look back on a century of teenage history, identity and expression in the UK from the 20s to the youth of today. People are invited to share their teenage memories with The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum through: photographs; ticket stubs, flyers, etc of bands you went to see or were part of; outfits/accessories representing your teenage look; gadgets that your teenage self could not live without and the stories behind them.

***Hillfields' Readers' Group** has issued its May newsletter, which includes: a book quiz; shortlists for the International Booker Prize 2022 and the Jhalak Prize 2022; a book review. To join the group or for further information, please email

hrgcov2005@yahoo.co.uk

*After a 2 year absence **Styvechale Open Gardens** is back on 12th June 11.00am-5.00pm. Tickets are £5 per adult, accompanied children go free. Tickets and map are available on the day from the Church Hall at West Orchard United Reformed Church, The Chesils, Coventry CV3 6FP. Proceeds will go to the National Garden Scheme caring charities and Myton Hospice. There will be up to 15 lovely mature suburban gardens open, with many of them providing refreshments and plants for sale. Plenty for you to see and perhaps some ideas for you to take home. For further information, email thegaughts@yahoo.co.uk

Culture Noticeboard...

***Neil McNaught's** exhibition, *Stories from The Factory of Ghosts*, can be viewed at the Litten Tree Pub from 7th to 28th May 12.00 noon to 4.00pm daily. Neil has been a lecturer in Visual Communications and his work has been exhibited in several galleries in UK.

***Coventry City of Culture Trust** is holding a conference *The Collaborative City – Embracing Co-Creation* on Thursday 26th May from 10.00am to 6.00pm. For further information, please email collaborativecity@coventry2021.co.uk

The Windrush Generation: Aspirations* – a service of Remembrance, Jubilation and Critique, organised by **Septimus Severus, will be held at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 19th June at 4.00pm. Speakers include Courtney Griffiths QC and Bishop Desmond Jadoo. For further information, please visit <https://sway.office.com/rFqtqc4fcEN1f3FW?ref=Link>

Did you know?

***The Big Jubilee Lunch**, which brings neighbours and communities together over food and fun, will be marked from 2nd to 5th June. If you are planning a big lunch, you can download a useful pack by visiting www.theBigJubileeLunch.com

***Refugee Week** 2022 will be marked from 20th to 26th June. The theme for the 2022 Refugee Week is *Healing*. To access the Refugee Week Event Organiser's pack, visit www.refugeeweek.org.uk You can also request updates. In Coventry, Refugee Week has been renamed Coventry Welcomes Festival, which is being coordinated by Last Mafuba l.mafuba@inini.co.uk

For your information/action...

***Coventry U3A** (The University of the Third Age) provides a time of creativity and fulfilment for older people through its varied interest groups. Anyone who is retired from full time employment can join. Members can learn new skills, make new friends and keep active and healthy. There is an annual subscription of £14. The range of activities on offer is truly impressive – Art, Dancing, Bridge, Bowls, Music, Gardening, Photography, Poetry reading, Rambling, Reading Group, Scrabble, Singing, etc. For further information, visit: www.u3sites.org.uk/coventry/welcome
For membership, email john@jfachilds.go-plus.net

*Free online workshops for parents and carers to help keep their children safe online are hosted by **West Midlands Police** in partnership with Coventry City Council's **Prevent Team**. For further information, email madihah.murshed@coventry.gov.uk

*For information about grants for projects re: Green Spaces, visit <https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/teamwilder-community-grants>

***Imagineer Productions** is running a free training programme for young people aged 16-30, not in employment, education or training, and interested in the creative or technical side of live events and outdoor arts. Training sessions will be held up to May at Daimler Powerhouse Creation Centre. Contact: kathi@imagineerproductions.co.uk or tayyaba@imagineerproductions.co.uk or call Jane Hytch 07808 429619

***Vaisakhi Sports Day** will be held on Sunday 19th June 9.00am – 5.00pm at the War Memorial Park. Events on the day include: sports events – football, volleyball, tug-of-war and track events; arts, crafts and music workshops and much more.

*The **Yesu Persaud Centre for Caribbean Studies**, University of Warwick, is holding its annual Ameena Gafoor lecture on Tuesday 24th May 2022 at 5.00pm online. The lecture, entitled *Janet Jagan: Freedom Fighter of Guayana*, will be delivered by Professor Patricia Mohammed. To register, email f.viala@warwick.ac.uk

Farewell message

Colin Scott, Chair, and Mehru Fitter, Secretary, are stepping down on 31st May.

During our 28 year association with the festival, we have had the privilege of seeing our festival blossom from its modest beginnings in 1994 into a huge people's festival,

with 200+ members drawn from different sectors. Our members, the backbone of the festival, have been incredibly innovative and extremely supportive.



←The festival was the proud recipient of the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service in 2016.

The festival’s work in bringing communities together was recognised through Coventry City Council’s Community Cohesion Award.

We thank: Coventry City Council’s Events Team; Peter Barnett CBE – Head of Libraries, Advice, Health and Information for his unfailing support; Coventry Libraries and Information Service; our performers, who have proved that Coventry is a storehouse of talent; our funders; the local media; and our volunteers for their

wiling assistance at all times.

We extend our best wishes to the incoming Executive Committee as it takes the festival to new heights.

www.positiveimagesfestival.co.uk

Colin Scott
Chair



Mehru Fitter MBE
Secretary

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