



Positive Images Festival 2015 Report

Background information about the festival: Positive Images Festival celebrates its 21st Anniversary

Positive Images Festival started as a one day festival in 1995 and was launched by the Poet Benjamin Zephaniah. Over the years, it has grown prodigiously in size and now incorporates more than 150 events over a three week period.

The festival's aims are: to celebrate diversity; promote community cohesion; enable community organisations to publicise their services; showcase local talent and to provide volunteering opportunities.

Pre-festival events:

Sunday 7th June



The Big Lunch, a national event, is a one day get-together for neighbours.

40 people representing 18 languages and drawn from different ethnic backgrounds shared food from various countries, played ball games, enjoyed City of Coventry Corp of Drums' performance, and learnt about different cultures at the Multicultural Big Lunch held at the War Memorial Park from 1.00pm to 7.30pm! The organiser, Murielle Galvani, had obtained Big Lunch stickers from the national organising body. It was wonderful to see new faces and also a Councillor among attendees. We thank Murielle for her unflagging enthusiasm.

Bands in the Park

City of Coventry Corp of Drums performed for hundreds of people, who had flocked to the War Memorial Park on a very sunny day.

9th June & 11th June

Songs & Rhymes from Around the World & Craft Session at Stoke Library

10th June

How was it for you?



115 enthusiastic young people attended an animated session at which young panellists explored an important issue – how young people view politics and what engages them. The event, arranged by the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, was held at The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum. The panellists, who came from different walks of life, were simply brilliant. Questions and comments from the floor made it amply clear that young people expected their secondary education to make them more knowledgeable about the world of politics.

12th June

Health & Well-being Coffee Morning (for women) at FWT.

The Festival begins...

Positive Images Festival 2015 began on Saturday 13th June with a Multicultural Book, Craft & Food Fair

The Launch of the 21s Positive Images Festival took place at 12 noon and despite the inclement weather it was well received by local people who expressed great interest in the festival and engaged in conversations with the artists, organisers and the stall holders. The launch was hosted by HillzFM and the welcoming speeches were given by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Michael Hammon and by Pru Porretta, Lady Godiva

The rain did not affect the attendance of most stallholders and artists and the Festival went ahead successfully as planned. The Multicultural Book, Craft & Food Fair was held in Smithford Way from 10.00am to 4.00pm. 11 marquees comprising 22 stalls were set up.

The festival was officially launched by The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Michael Hammon, and Pru Porretta, Lady Godiva. Stallholders were delighted to meet and have a chat with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

The launch was supported in several ways by Coventry City Council and its officers and this allowed the Festival to get off to a great start. The support of Watch and Hillz FM was crucial to the success of this year's Festival and we hope that a longer term partnership can be arranged.

What worked well:

- The stalls were erected in good time.

- We had six new participating traders
- The entertainment programme proved to be popular.
- The change of venue for the Diversity Disco Soup event from Broadgate Square to Smithford Way worked to our advantage.
- PIF's partnership with Hillz Community Radio station, whose senior presenter, Raymond Reid, did the compering. Volunteers from Hillz FM went round and interviewed visitors as well as participants.

Challenges

- Last minute requests for power points – there are only **three** double power points and all equipment must be PAT tested to council's standards or they cannot access the power.
- Last minute withdrawal
- Late submission of booking forms
- The contact details section of the booking form will need to be reworded so that participating organisations are requested to include only those details which should appear in the publicity leaflet. This will reduce the number of amendments. This will also apply to the Community Information Fair.
- Inclement weather conditions resulted in a lower footfall and a challenge for dance performers.
- There was a power cut for 20 minutes during the day that affected both the performances and power to two of the stalls.

Evaluation forms were distributed to all participants. Below are the findings:

- All stallholders were satisfied with the arrangements – 9 rated these as being very good.
- Everyone felt that enough information had been received prior to the event.
- The suitability of the venue was found to be very good by 6, good by the rest and poor by 1 stallholder.
- Most stallholders recorded a low number of visitors – numbers ranged from 20-30, with one stall receiving approximately 50. Just one stall received 100+ visitors.

Other comments received:

- Better cover than last year.
- We were unfortunate with the weather but that can't be helped.
- Footfall was poor this year.
- Excellent music
- Marquees were dark.
- People started packing up early.
- Great atmosphere
- A lot of passing trade but because of poor weather people were reluctant to stop

- Poor light in the gazebo even with the sides open. Customers unable to see goods on sale/appreciate wares fully.
- Apart from the weather and the power cut, everything was excellent.
- The event was well-planned.
- It was great fun as always, wouldn't miss it for the world!
- It had very friendly organisers and set-up staff
- It may be better under canopy (Health & Safety permitting)

The Diversity Disco Soup event was programmed to take place in Broadgate Square as part of the Festival However, the weather conditions made the organisers abandon the venue. Instead, they decided to participate in the Multicultural Book, Craft & Food Fair. This turned out to be a boon for PIF as the stall proved to be exceedingly popular. They served 150 portions of soup and had approx. 275 visitors. They also made a comment about the format of the booklet. It is hoped to discuss this at the review meeting.

Events arranged by Adopt & Foster for Coventry

Adopt and Foster Coventry was a new partner for this year's Festival and the partnership worked magnificently with a range of different events and activities.

Report from Rachel Brown, Fostering and Adoption Recruitment Development Officer

“On 13th June, at Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, we had a '**story corner**' featuring Roisin from the JD and Roisin show on Free Radio – we had stories, colouring in and even a dancing hamster! We also managed to attend the launch of the Positive Images festival on the same day and received 8 fostering enquiries as a result of these two activities – this is fantastic for us and we are hoping that some of these will translate to approved foster carers to help care for Coventry children.

Our **exhibition** at The Herbert received a very high number of visitors, vastly helped by the Herbert's own '*Children's Television Exhibition*' which has had ground-breaking visitor numbers. The exhibition has also received a lot of attention via our social media platforms and nationally. This, combined with the launch of 'Alfie's Journey' (our fostering film which was also featured in the exhibition) is being held up as an example of quality creative marketing by The Fostering Network.

Our event '**Children's tales from around the world**' on 28th June had around 30 visitors. We received 3 fostering enquiries on the day as well as an adoption enquiry. We have also made good links with the Imagination Café storytellers who kindly assisted with the event and plan to run similar events in community and faith venues.

Our film '**Alfie's Journey**' was launched at our Film Premiere, hosted by the Lord Mayor on 30th June in the Lord Mayor's Hospitality Suite and was attended by foster carers, care leavers, those involved in the film production and other senior managers and elected members. The film has been a huge success with around 23K views online- the film can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlvwd-griwk&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>

We have loved working with the festival!! I really enjoyed the faith walk too and it has been a great opportunity to meet other people in different organisations and make links - as a result of the festival we feel better linked in with some of the fantastic community support that is happening in the City.

As a result of the festival we have:

Had 2 interviews on Hillz FM

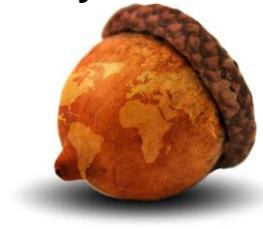
Taken part in the Hillfields Festival (4 enquiries)

Made arrangements to run future events with Imagination Café

Visited the Sahil project and talked about the need for more foster carers and adopters

Linked in with some faith groups and are looking at future involvement with them

Recycled Acorn Project



Several workshops, facilitated by Gabrielle Back of National Savers, were arranged in selected schools, with some 150 children taking part. An acorn competition has been launched and schools in Coventry and Warwickshire have been invited to take part, with a closing date of mid-October. Some adult workshops have also been arranged. A Mini Acorn Collage has been produced as a taster. The giant acorn collage will be started in September. It is hoped that Rotary Clubs in District 1060 will sponsor the giant collage. All proceeds will go to the Acorns Children's Hospice.

Community Information Fair 2015

This year Voluntary Action Coventry were unable to organise the Fair and this had to be taken up by Festival volunteers. 19 organisations participated in the Community Information Fair, held in Smithford Way on Thursday 18th June, some taking whole marquees. The following findings have emerged from an analysis of the completed evaluation forms:

1. Most organisations found the **arrangements** for the day good, 7 found them to be very good.
2. With the exception of one organisation (which was fitted in at the eleventh hour) all organisations felt they had received enough information prior to the event.
3. Whilst most organisations were happy with the **venue**, 1 organisation deemed it to be fair and 1 poor.
4. With the exception of 3 organisations, all other organisations found the fair useful for their organisation, 6 indicated it was very useful.
5. 2 participants have indicated they would not consider **future participation** and a third one was undecided.

6. **Visitor figures** ranged from 3-70. One organisation recorded its huge success in giving out 300 bags with information literature.

7. Comments:

*A very good opportunity for us. Congratulations to all concerned.

*Funding shortages could make payment of stall fee difficult.

*Rather cold at the beginning

*The fair should be held on a Friday which has a lot more foot fall.

*Consider rotating stalls so that organisations are not in the same place next year.

*Appreciated the busker- would be good to have music set up.

*A very good location

Organisers' comments:

*We had to turn away some organisations as stalls were fully booked. 12 marquees are the maximum the city council will allow in Smithford Way.

*Some thought will need to be given to the wording on the booking form, which should clearly ask which contact details should appear in the leaflet. A lot of amending had to be done.

*We will need to insist on the 50 word limit for a description of services.

*We noticed that one of the tables was shared by 2 organisations. Should this be encouraged? We think it might help to keep down costs if organisations are happy to share stalls.

Immediately after the fair, participants were requested to send us info re: their preferred day. 6 responses were received. 2 expressed a preference for Friday; 1 preferred Thursday for staffing reasons; 2 felt the day would not make any difference.

Whilst commenting on their preferred day, some organisations sent in additional comments: stalls stretching in a straight line from the Central Library to the Pound Shop; stalls to be closer to the fountain. Both these suggestions, though good from an organisation's viewpoint, are not acceptable to the city council for Health and Safety reasons. Regarding access for emergency services.

Events arranged by Arty-Folks



Arty Folks arranged therapeutic arts activities for adults to help reduce stress and increase self-confidence, the viewing of a short documentary ***It matters***, and an exhibition of sculptures created by Members of Arty-Folks, exploring identity and

stereotypes and challenging the stigma still clinging on to mental health. The exhibition was very well-arranged. For each exhibit, a visitor had to work out what the sculpture represented and then read the text explaining the symbolism of different elements.

Visitors' Comments:

- *Very powerful images, honest true stories behind each one. Truly memorable!
- *The stigma of mental health is unjust. This exhibition shows there is life beyond having a mental health issue. People are more than capable of achieving great things.
- *Great to see people being able to express their feelings, hopes and aspirations in such a powerful way. Creating these pieces has clearly been a journey and demonstrates that art can be a positive step on the road to healing.
- *The amount of work that has gone into these pieces is overwhelming.
- *Very thought-provoking. Thank you all for sharing yourselves in your art.
- *Very interesting work. Such a lot of detail and thought have gone into these pieces. I love the honesty and openness too.

Events arranged by Age UK Coventry

Dosti: the Big Lunch for Older South Asian People



On 24th June, about 50 South Asian Senior Citizens enjoyed a sumptuous meal at Hope Centre.

The atmosphere was very welcoming. The event comprised welcome, information provision, an entertainment programme, news about a forthcoming trip, a gentle exercise session and a delicious lunch.

Everyone was full of praise for this provision, which helped them to overcome loneliness and build friendships.

Events in Libraries

Libraries participated in the 21st Positive Images Festival in a big way and this year saw the largest number of libraries taking part and organising more activities than previously.

Events arranged for young people included:

* *Songs & rhymes from around the world* in several libraries. Stoke Library found it encouraging to see attendance from children for whom English is an additional language. Rhymes around the world were immensely enjoyed by children and parents alike.

*Craft sessions at several libraries. Coundon Library held a day long craft day.

*Homework help sessions and laptop sessions at Foleshill Library



Libraries arranged story and activity times, which were enjoyed by young visitors. Stoke Library combined its story time with activities like a martial arts display and turban tying, for which it received positive feedback. Children enjoyed having their names written in Arabic script, in calligraphy sessions at Stoke and Aldermoor Library. At yet another session they enjoyed Gwiazdy (Polish paper cutting craft), Rangoli, Romanian Egg Painting & learnt how to make Native American Indian Headbands. Caludon Library arranged Africa-themed storytime, sari dressing and calligraphy. Father's Day story times were held at Hillfields and Foleshill Library.

*Youth sessions were held at Willenhall Library, where attendees learnt the art of origami.

*Family First Sessions for children under 4 and parents and carers, arranged by Foleshill Library in partnership with Foleshill Children's Services.

*Stoke Library arranged a meeting of its reading group for young children.

Events for adults:

Talk: A very thought-provoking and stimulating presentation, punctuated with audience participation, was delivered by Trishna Chohan on the subject of stress and anger. Most of the attendees had learnt about the Sunday event at Stoke Library through word of mouth. The speaker also mentioned the pivotal role libraries had played in her life.

15 music enthusiasts attended a **Live Acoustic Session** at the Central Library, where the performer was a UK Open Mic 2015 Finalist OPERALI.

*Antakshri (Bollywood Song Quiz) at Foleshill Library

*National Careers Service sessions at Foleshill Library, where free support and advice was provided for CV writing, job searches and employment.

*Knitting Club at Foleshill Library, in partnership with EKTA Unity Group. Women enjoyed knitting, crocheting, chatting and meeting new people at this event. A knit and natter session was arranged at Cheylesmore Library.

*Weekly IT Drop in Sessions at Foleshill Library, for adults requiring an introduction to IT. Attendees received help with e-mail, using a scanner, looking for jobs, etc.

*Jubilee Crescent Library arranged an Indian evening, at which people chatted about India and looked at a display of the library's resources on India.

*Arena Park and Foleshill Libraries arranged a coffee morning to create awareness about the range of library services.

*Aldermoor Library arranged a Summer Fete which had record attendance.

*Hillfields Library was pleasantly surprised to receive 50 visitors to its stall during Hillfields Festival.

*Willenhall Library arranged family events to celebrate languages.

Events arranged by Brahma Kumaris, Coventry

Meditation sessions were arranged at Foleshill Library to encourage people to relax, quiet their minds and focus on inner calm. Attendees appreciated the opportunity of sharing information in a safe environment.



The International Yoga Day held at Foleshill Library was attended by adults as well as children. Children enjoyed handling the big spinning wheel, which stopped at one of the 36 virtues. Children wrote the word where it stopped and drew a picture associated with the word. The atmosphere was simply wonderful.

Another event during the festival period was the public talk on *Stress Free Living*. Attendees were introduced to a tool for modern living. Amongst the audience were 16 first timers.

Trails arranged by Eleanor Nesbitt

Earlier during the year, Eleanor Nesbitt, facilitator of 3 trails, attended a training session arranged by the Healthy Walks Team of Coventry City Council. A member of the Healthy Walks Team was present at each of the trails. This benefited PIF tremendously as administrative duties such as marking the register of attendees, obtaining permission for photographs, etc. was handled by the Healthy Walks Team representative. Each participant received Be Healthy Team's bag, containing very attractively produced literature about walks, physical activity, running events, etc. Our trails were publicised by the team and this attracted new participants. PIF thanks the team for its input.

Industrial Trail

14 enthusiastic participants, who participated in the Industrial Trail, got an excellent insight into the industrial history of Coventry. The circular walk in and around the city centre started just outside Coventry Leisure Centre and included locations connected with some of Coventry's craftsmen, designers and manufacturers. A

highly illustrated pamphlet furnished walkers with a wealth of information about Frank Whittle, John Brindley, John Thornton, James Starley and many more. Participants were very effusive in their comments.



Spon Street

*The walk was excellent. You have such a wide and accessible knowledge of Coventry (and other) history – it's great!

*I went on the Industrial History walk, on Sunday 22 June. I liked the combination of walking, and learning new facts about the industrial history of the city - such as Brindley's involvement in the canal, and the site in The Burgess, where John Thornton's workshop once stood. Very enjoyable and good to get out in the fresh air. I attended the Industrial Walk and was helping out. Despite having lived in the city for 15 years, I had not been aware of the cultural significance of Coventry and I enjoyed the walk and Eleanor's enthusiasm for the subject. The comments from other attendees were very positive, with many booking on to do some of the other walks and it would be great to have more guides like this.

*I enjoyed this walk immensely – it was interesting to hear about Coventry's important history and surprising that indicators of it are all around us, though the majority of us pass them by daily without a thought or do not know about them at all. Eleanor's tour guiding was at once impressive, modest, warm and consistently enthusiastic. She has a thirst for knowledge and a clear passion surrounding Coventry's past that breeds excitement in others. She was also very inviting – all questions were answered with equal consideration and so no question felt too silly to be asked.

*An excellent event – very friendly and informative

Faith Trail



Fifteen individuals joined the Faith Trail, which started at Holy Trinity Church and ended at GNP Gurdwara in Harnall Lane West. Walkers gathered information about the Old Blue Coat School, St. Mark's Annexe, Eagle Street Mosque & Islam, Shree Krishna Hindu Temple & Hinduism, the Spiritualist Church & Spiritualism, the Polish Church and GNP Gurdwara & Sikhism.

Each attendee received an extremely well-produced pamphlet containing photographs (taken by the Healthy Walks Team) of places of worship and Eleanor's explanatory text. The text was found to be very informative by all participants. For instance, walkers learnt that the word *Jamia*, which appears in the name of a mosque (Jamia Mosque) means the large midday congregation every Friday.

Fine weather, the accompanying pamphlet with colour photographs and large print text, the warm welcome at the Shree Krishna Temple and GNP Sikh Temple, and Eleanor's running commentary made the faith trail an enjoyable experience.

Comments received:

*I really enjoyed the walk, it was a great experience for me to see and visit the different places of worship.

*I found the walk led by Eleanor extremely interesting. One man from St. Osburgs Catholic Church mentioned starting there and walking down to the centre. This struck me as a good idea to include other faiths. Maybe the Quakers in Hill Street too? What is always so fascinating about Eleanor's walks is the amount of background knowledge she has at her fingertips and her clear passion for her subjects.

*I would like to comment how enjoyable this walk was. Usually my walks are carried out in the countryside, parks and rural places where I receive information. Having a theme attached to the walk in Coventry and all the information given, was very informative.

*Great to hear about so many other faiths. I look forward to the literary trail.

Literary Trail



Coventry Railway Station, the starting point of the literary trail

Following from the launch of the Literary Trail and a number of Literary Walks last year the Literary Trail was again featured as a significant event in this year's Festival. This was a post-festival event, during which walkers discovered some of the many connections over the centuries between central Coventry and some very famous writers. Each participant received a copy of Eleanor's booklet *Coventry Literary Trail*, for which funding was received from Heritage Lottery Fund.

Ongoing work around the station led to a change of route – several stops on the green bridge- which worked well.

Comments received:

*The walk was indeed a success. Overall fascinating and engaging! Eleanor is an excellent guide as I could tell our walkers clearly benefited from her vast amount of knowledge.

*The literary trail was an interesting walk around the city. It was good to find out lots of things I did not know about Coventry. I really enjoyed the booklet that went with the commentary by our walk leader.

*Excellent event – very friendly and informative

Coventry Healthy Walks

The Festival was extremely pleased to include the Walks Programme from the Coventry Healthy Walks Team this year and 150 individuals, representing a varied ethnic mix, participated in Coventry Healthy Walks across the city, enjoying physical activity and social benefits.

Green IT Workshops

This is the second year that Tripta Prashar has led Green IT workshops as part of the Festival and building upon last year's programme she had put together a new mix of stimulating workshop sessions to support the Festival's environmental

interests. This programme as with several others this year was supported by Awards for All.

2 Green It Purchasing Workshops and a Green IT Best Practices Workshop, facilitated by Green IT expert Tripta Prashar, were held at the Central Library. One attendee had come all the way from Hinckley.

Feedback from attendees:

*The session was a fun and interactive way to learn about important issues regarding everyday use of IT and how to maintain professional, social and personal well-being.

*Tripta is a very inspiring person with an amazing passion.

*What I enjoyed about the workshop was the passion, the environment, guidance and group bonding.

*The workshop gives you a great opportunity for networking and opens doors to lots of opportunities and ideas.

*Thank you for a wonderful insight into Green IT.

*Tripta was welcoming and a joy to be around. She made sure that everyone understood the session as some were more experienced in IT than others.

*It opened your mind about Green IT and I will be more responsible in the future when dealing with IT.

*I enjoyed the group exercise as they were educational and also fun.

*I would certainly recommend and attend more workshops that Tripta hosts.

*Certainly increased my knowledge and awareness in Green IT and purchasing. One attendee made a request for a training course on database design.

Events arranged by The Flame, Mindfulness Holistic Health and Wellness Centre

This year for the first time The Flame organised three weeks of mindfulness events to support the environmental theme of the Festival again supported by Awards for All.

The Flame, which promotes a Zen and Taoist approach to self-development, Arcade, arranged Tai Chi, African Drumming, Chi Kung and Mindfulness Meditation sessions at its base in City Arcade. 3 free lunchtime Mindfulness Meditation sessions were also delivered at the Central Library.

Commonwealth Soldiers remembered on the 70th Anniversary of VE Day

This year BOPA organised a significant event for young people for the Positive Images Festival and they deserve our thanks and congratulations.



The Belgrade Theatre was packed to capacity for this commemorative event, arranged by BOPA (British Organisation for People of Asian Origin) and supported by Councillor David Kershaw – Cabinet Member (Education), Coventry City Council; Mr. Paul Sabapathy CBE – Lord Lieutenant for West Midlands; Royal British Legion and Commonwealth Association (Birmingham).

Ablly compered by Davinder Prasad, the event was an unqualified success, with an audience made up of students from schools and universities in and around Coventry, Councillors, dignitaries and people drawn from different walks of life. Students of Whitley Abbey produced an excellent photostory.

Organiser's feedback:

We believe that the story of the bravery and sacrifices of Black & Asian soldiers in World War 1 must be told to younger citizens of British society. They need to feel proud of the fact that they are not just sons and daughters of immigrants but also that their forbears fought bravely and sacrificed their lives, without which the peaceful British society that we live in would not have been possible. We believe that this change in self-perception will enhance integration, community cohesion and peace and help us to build a better nation.

The event was supported by Senior Officers, soldiers and cadets from the Royal Navy, Air Force and Army in their ceremonial uniforms. There were exhibitions and displays of decommissioned weapons, Body Armours, uniforms, helmets and other memorabilia, which proved to be a great learning resource for history and citizenship. It was also aimed to encourage younger members from schools and universities to think of servicemen as friends not enemies.

The National Army Museum, National Memorial Arboretum, Royal British Legion, British Army 11 Signals & West Midlands Brigade, 250 Gurkha Signals Squadron, WW1 & 2 Muslim Travelling Museum, Yeoman Warders from the Tower of London & Chelsea Pensioners were some of the main participants in exhibitions and displays. The event was supported by secondary schools from Coventry, Rugby and Birmingham. It was great to see approximately 700 young British citizens and several adults enjoy displays and listen attentively to presentations. Our vision to promote British identity among British Asians showed results when community leaders from all faiths requested our team to hold similar events in other cities in the Midlands area.

Events arranged by FWT – A Centre for Women

At the 5 coffee mornings at The Hub in Hillfields and at FWT in Elmsdale Avenue, 25 women enjoyed making kimonos, head bands and learning tie and dye.



Job Club sessions increased women's employability skills through the use of IT and in Basic IT sessions attendees learnt how to use the mouse, the keyboard, etc.

Events arranged by SAHIL:

Women's Open Day turned out to be a busy event at which ladies thoroughly enjoyed themselves, playing dolki and doing gidda dancing. At the event there were health check stalls and charity stalls. It was very encouraging to receive positive comments from attendees.



Women's Healthy Walks:

Walking to the park has motivated service users to achieve a healthy life style. One of the ladies in the groups said, "It has been one of the best things I have ever done, I feel I have found the real me, I'm healthier, happier and more confident."

Cook and Eat Well course was well-received by ladies, who learnt to cook different and healthy food. As a result, another 9 week course has been arranged, starting in September.

Tuesday Support Group hosted activities for the whole family, catering for people of different ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

On the **Fashion Designer Course**, ladies learnt how to make patterns and have started cutting and stitching their own clothes.

In the **Dolki Class**, ladies learnt easy steps to play dolki and are now able to sing bhajans (devotional songs), Hindi songs and Punjabi geet.

The **Sahaja Yog Meditation class** offered ladies a chance to experience a peaceful and enlightened feeling.

West Midlands Police gave a talk at **Men's Open Day**. There was a food stall and men enjoyed listening to music.

During the festival period, Sahil also arranged **Men's Peer Support Group meetings**.

Ego Performance Company arranged **Oneness Concert**, with performances by Ska and reggae artistes. This was the first collaboration with Positive Images and we hope that this will continue into future concerts and add another dimension to the diversity of the Festival

Hillfields Reader Group, as in several previous years, arranged a free afternoon of music, dance, readings, poetry, storytelling and quizzes at Hope Centre

in partnership with the Positive Images Festival. For such a small group of enthusiastic readers to mount a special event like this deserves great praise and we hope that this will continue in future. The Festival thanks the Chair of the Group, Dorothy Senior and Group members.

Hillfields Community Festival

This year, after a five year absence, the Hillfields Festival made a triumphant return to Hillfields Village Square on 28th June, The Festival was hosted by WATCH, and with the support of the Positive Images Festival, who provided some seed funding from Awards for All, the traditional Hillfields Gala Day brought together new and existing communities.

The vibrant entertainment programme included: Irish folk music, an acoustic set from Hillz FM's new Irish presenter Michael Gallagher and Irish dancers; Bollywood dance; a gospel choir; Thai Chi demonstration; Afghan dance to traditional Afghan music and songs by two little girls who proved that Coventry has talent! Exhibitors included Time Union based at Leigh Street Allotments, Abraham's Seed, Adopt and Foster for Coventry, Gradtutors selling traditional Asian jewellery, Hillfields Library, Hillfields Readers Association. WEA and FWT held children's activities.

There was a tombola, with prizes donated by Hillfields Pharmacy, International Supermarket and Londis. Children participated in a dance competition, for which prizes had been donated by Sainsbury's Trinity Street store.

Local photographer Jason Tilley was on hand to take pictures of Hillfields.

The festival was attended by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Michael Hammon, who presented an award to Peter Fitzgerald on behalf of WATCH for his voluntary work in Hillfields.

Trisha Evans, Centre Manager of WATCH, said, "This has been a great day to bring together the different communities in Hillfields, to see faces old and new. Next year we would like to make the gala day even bigger and work in partnership with other local organisations. Thank you to all performers and stallholders for making it such a brilliant day."

Shared past, Common future

One of our new partners, Coventry University's Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, interviewed 124 people to explore the experiences and backgrounds of Coventry residents. 3 venues were used – Smithford Way, FarGo Village and Hillfields Village Square. The data collected will be presented in a research article. Hopefully, a briefing paper for local audiences will be produced.

Coventry Against Racism, who have participated and supported the Festival for many years, held a meeting at Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, where Hope Project, Birmingham, presented the heart-breaking experiences of Asylum Seekers and Migrants through drama. This was followed by a report from Coventry Refugee

& Migrant Centre and the moving story of a person who came here at the age of 12. Ten years on, whilst at University, he has learnt that he has to apply for asylum.

Coventry Pride, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) festival, was held in the last weekend of June at FarGo Village. Positive Images Festival was pleased this year to incorporate the Pride event into the programme, which supports the diversity objectives of Positive Images and congratulates the Festival organisers on this significant event. The festival featured a number of stalls from traders and community groups and performances. The festival, which attracted a staggering 6,000, also included people with disabilities. The event ran smoothly and was a vibrant celebration of the LGBT community.

Aspirations, a counselling and therapy-providing practice, arranged a drop in session at the Central Library for the first time. Organiser's comment: Provided with a meeting room which was very isolated so requested to be in the main library hall. We were the only ones showcasing and promoting our services on the day, however we felt it was a good opportunity to meet people.

Exhibitions

Positive Images Bible Exhibition from artists around the world. Again this was a new addition to the Festival programme and again congratulations to the organisers for a significant addition to the Festival programme. Over the course of six days, Warwick Road Church Centre received approx. 200 visitors, mostly senior citizens, who commented positively on the pictures displayed around the walls of the Café and the Centre.

Organiser's comment:

We benefited greatly from being part of the festival for the first time. Probably the most valuable aspect was the opportunity to find out about other organisations serving people in the city centre and meeting face to face at planning meetings. Preparing for the Positive Images event has spurred me to improve the quality of our displays and buy some new picture frames and I will be continuing to change the theme every couple of months.

Our strengths in 2015:

*We worked well with our existing partners but also are delighted to bring on board some significant new ones – Adopt & Foster for Coventry team; Coventry University and WATCH amongst others. The involvement of all the new partners added a new dimension to our festival. It is also very encouraging for us to know that the three organisations would like to carry on with this partnership.

*Once again, our festival programme booklet continues to attract compliments such as "congratulations on creating such an excellent Positive Images Programme booklet to celebrate the 21st anniversary year."

*Our list of contacts and active partners is continuing to grow.

What could be improved:

*We endeavour to include as much information as possible in our printed booklet. Unfortunately, information about a couple of events reached us rather late. So the information was available only on the website.

*For some events, venues and dates were changed. Information about the change appeared on our website. However, not everyone checks the website.

*Public liability insurance will need looking at.

*At an Age-Friendly City event, attention was drawn to the use of store noticeboards and community noticeboards for publicity. It was also pointed out that for community noticeboards the publicity needs to be in A5 size.

*It would be appreciated if every organisation producing a flyer for its event acknowledged Positive Images Festival.

Things to remember:

We need to be mindful of the fact that attendances will be affected during the month of Ramadan.

Positive Images Festival congratulates:

Coventry Samaritans for winning the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service BOPA and Davinder Prasad for winning Coventry City Council's Community Cohesion Awards.

The Chair's thanks and congratulations

I would like to thank all the individuals, organisers and communities involved in the 21st anniversary Festival. The range and creativeness of those involved in the Festival never ceases to amaze and the [Positive Images Festival acknowledges that without them the Festival would never take place. This year there have been so many new partners and new ideas that I think I can say this year's Festival was unique.

Throughout the Festival we have tried to acknowledge and highlight the work carried out by partners and I hope this comes through the reading of the Report. Not all organisations have been acknowledged but their contributions are also crucial to the success of the Festival.

Our appreciation is also offered to the stallholders at both the Book, Craft and Food Fair and at the Community Information Fair.

Special thanks this year go to the Festival volunteers, many of them but not all, students from Coventry University. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated and you have added great quality to the Festival.

Thanks also to our funders and their representatives especially Awards for All. We also acknowledge the contribution of the city council to the Launch event through the efforts of Peter Barnett, Lee House and Surindar Nagra. Thanks also are due to Rachel Brown and the Fostering and Adoption team for sponsoring the Festival Programme and for Trisha Evans and her team at Watch and Hillz FM for the media and promotional support.

I must not forget Positive Images Festival partners in the planning of the Festival which began in September 2014 – it's always a long haul but we get there in the end!

Special thanks also to the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Michael Hammon, Caroline Rogers, Rob Culliford, Cliff Hibbard, Karen Berry, Mick Painter of Marina Promotions, Pru Porretta, Kusumika Chatterjee, and Rochelle Cain and her team at the Central Library.

And lastly thanks to Mehru Fitter for compiling the report once again in her exemplary and timely fashion.

Onwards to the 2016 Festival

Colin Scott, Festival Chair

7th September 2015