

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015

PADDINGTON ARTS





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Paddington Arts by Numbers

Funders, Staff, Management Committee

3

6

13

21

25

31

37

41

45

47

48



Directors Report

These are difficult times for small independent organisations like Paddington Arts. From 2010 to 2015 we have lost all our public funding. This means we now rely on project funding, small scale fundraising and donations, and the income we generate by letting out offices and rooms within our building.

Nevertheless, the commitment of our staff, tutors, volunteers, members and management committee is such that we will carry on as long as possible in staying true to our mission and what we have done for a long time now; namely to provide a safe space for children and young people to take part in creative activities; learn new skills; make new friends; broaden their horizons; and help them to find their place in the world.

In this report you will see our members performing, exploring, playing and having fun. New this year - we now have four beehives on our roof, and have produced over 60 jars of honey! I can now add 'Beekeeping' to my list of skills, and have enjoyed looking after them, learning about them, and showing people where and how they live.

If you want to find out more about the bees or any other things we do at Paddington Arts you are welcome to call, email or come round. It is our members, the community and our volunteers who help Paddington Arts to grow and prosper, and the future is in your hands.

Steve Shaw

Director





Performing Arts Report

My rollercoaster year

Circles, roundabouts, dips and bends no one knows where this is going to end
With funding going down the pot, now I'm getting really hot!
Carnival, shows, projects too - no one knows what were going to do
Trying to make ends meet – nights and nights with no sleep.....
Make a negative into a positive that's what I hear people cry
The more I look into this dark hole I see no light and that's no lie....
All of a sudden a blink of hope, but do I get over excited? – Nope
Lets take one step at a time; going back to basics is not a crime

B'boys step star battle, heritage project too
Both projects done with funding that funders will not renew
Lets step out of our circle and have a clear view of what's going on
Without any funding can much more really go wrong?
So let's rebuild our foundation with what we know and love
Back to basics is the key to keep our heads above

So keep the boulders rolling, as we are here to stay
Backing our young people is the only way
All different backgrounds united as one
Together we stand 2016 bring it on.....

Eldora Edward

Youth arts participation and development manager









Paddington Arts has been taking part in the Notting Hill Carnival since 1996, and in partnership with Elimu Carnival Band since 2001. We hold a 'mas' camp in the six weeks before Carnival; this is where the costumes are made, and all preparations for carnival take place. Carnival is an important social and cultural event, and involves all ages and many family members. We parade on the streets of Notting Hill, which are closed to traffic for two days, and celebrate our freedom and individuality. 'Mas' is short for masque or masquerade, and to 'play mas' means to parade your costume in carnival and let the carnival spirit take over, and to become what the costume represents, whether a person, animal or mythical creature.



“The first time I went to carnival was in 2012, I was 10 years old. It was LIVE for me because it was the first time I could let go and enjoy myself, I was with my mum, sister and cousins. I started to go when my aunty said Paddington arts had a band called Elimu. I made loads of friends there.

Carnival is full of excitement. My feet were killing me but that didn't stop me from wuking up and dancing to the soca tunes.”

- Josh



“The first time I came to carnival was 3 years ago and I was 8 years old and it was the RED TING costumes. After that day I was dead. I was so dead that school didn’t even see me the next day.

At the time I was shy but then when I kept going carnival I just kept meeting new people who then became my friends. In carnival there is a judging point where we perform our carnival dance.”

- Ruchelle





THE A-Z OF
ELIMU
CARNIVAL BAND



CULTURAL HERITAGE

Elimu Carnival Band formed in 1980 and have taken part in the Notting Hill Carnival every year since then.

This year we were funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to produce a digital archive/website, exhibition and learning resources.

The archive includes T-Shirts, headpieces, masks, backpacks, prizes, newspaper cuttings, and documents from the early days. We also have found photos from nearly every carnival since 1980, and some well-made videos that include a trip to Ghana to research ideas and materials and to bring Carnival Arts to a secondary school in Kumasi.

On the homepage we have created a slideshow with images that span more than thirty years of Notting Hill Carnival and illustrate perfectly the journey made by this community and family-based band.



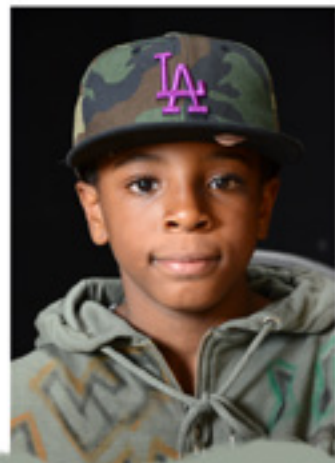


THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF ELIMU CANIVAL BAND

We set up a Young Elimu Heritage Group and members of this group photographed and interviewed members of the band and conducted a survey to find out more about their own history and to help pass it on to the next generation.

WHAT DOES CARNIVAL MEAN TO YOU?

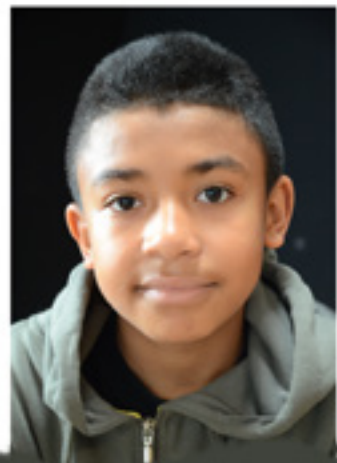
- Having fun and meeting my friends
- Fun, fun, fun – love the idea of everyone getting together as one
- One big family, love and unity also time to wuk up and let go
- Freedom and a chance to celebrate life
- Two days of rule breaking and fun, when you can do whatever and wear whatever you want and you will not be judged
- My heritage, culture, part of me, enjoyment, music, dancing
- A time to enjoy yourself on the street, listening to music
- A day with no rules
- Celebrating different cultures
- It is in my blood as I have been playing mas since I was small. My mum played mas while she was pregnant with me



Kyrion



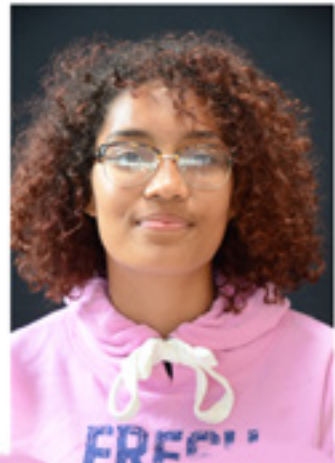
Chenae



Rico



Jush



Tia



Sasha



Louis



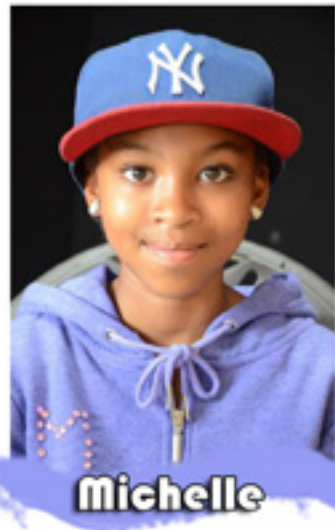
Shellese

“My name is Jushua. I am a performer, dancer, and I have been performing at the annual shows twice a year for the last four years.

Coming to Paddington Arts has helped me gain confidence, and helped me make a bunch of true friends. The teachers help me to do things right.

I love Paddington Arts. I love the teachers and I love being a part of it. It makes me feel special.

If Paddington Arts were to close there wouldn't be no other place I would go because nothing can take its place. I would be very upset as I have grown up in Paddington Arts, and look forward to going everyday.”



“My name is Michelle, I am 11 years old and I like to dance, act and perform in shows. Recently I have been creating new dance routines with Chloe and Eldora. I have also been doing drama. Paddington Arts has helped me by boosting my confidence when performing in front of other people. It has also helped me improve with my dancing and also with my freestyle.

I feel that Paddington Arts is a very inspiring place. It is also very fun, has many different activities from ages 6 to 26 and also gives kids a chance to show their talent.

If Paddington Arts were to close I would feel extremely upset and anxious.

This would be because my mum would have to pay a lot of money to let me go to other places to do dance and drama.”



“My name is Kayla Akinsiola. I am 15 years old. I have been attending Paddington Arts for four years. My dad used to attend Paddington Arts when he was younger doing drama.

I have enjoyed attending street dance sessions, making friends and learning new things. My sisters Jada and Nia have also attended sessions, doing steelpan and dance. I hope to stay here till I am 26 and hope to come back one day maybe to teach.

I love to dance because it makes me happy, and also it helps me to let off steam when I am upset or angry, and it makes me forget everything and I feel free.”



Paddington Farm is a community farm in Somerset, that has self-catering residential facilities, and 43 acres of land, where food is grown and animals are raised. Paddington Arts has a long association with Paddington Farm, and whenever we can, we take a group of children for a week in the summer holidays. Recently, costs have risen and budgets have shrunk, but the value of the residential experience for all concerned is huge, is of lasting benefit, and will be remembered for a very long time.

The learning experience for the children is not only about nature and the joys of the countryside, but also how to work and live together. In addition, having space to explore, and an adventure playground where the children can play without adult supervision, is an experience sadly denied to children growing up in the inner-city.



“With a soft spot for nature a visit to the farm was long overdue. One of the landmarks of the trip was making a fire in the woods where Paddington Arts had planted trees in the past around 25 years ago. The fire was made bush style using the dry logs to keep the fire ablaze. We roasted bananas and shallow fried potatoes using himalayan black salt. We picked the potatoes ourselves just less than 50 yards away from where we were staying. The young people showed appreciation in the support given, motivating them to go ahead and build me a shelter out of leaves and branches which they labeled Zippy’s Den. I could honestly say I was chuffed. Sitting around the fire with the locals, we discussed life on the farm and the spiritual attraction in the area, which is one of the many magnets for attracting visitors.

Glastonbury is surrounded by beautiful landscapes and when you’re on the top of the Glastonbury Tor, the landscapes come to life. We also made a trip up the Tor during the night. Once we got to the top we all laid on the grass gazing into the cloudy sky catching a glimpse of the stars as the parted clouds passed over us. We collectively caught a glimpse of a shooting star, heard the sounds of a flute and could softly hear a group of women known as goddesses by the locals, singing peacefully in the background inside of what was the last remains of an old church that had been destroyed by an earthquake. The trip was well received by young people and is a testament to the need for funders and sponsors to continue supporting youth organisations to be equipped with the necessities to deliver effective programs for young people to positively express themselves in and outside of their comfort zones.”

Zippy, Youth Worker

FARM TRIP

Monday

We arrived at the farm pretty late, but we all got comfortable in our own space in our bedrooms. We then went downstairs into the lounge room where the rules were explained. After that we chilled out.

Tuesday

We got up early, ate breakfast, then we went to feed the animals. Half of the day we chilled then we went on the Tor walk, came back and chilled.

We did a photography workshop which I loved. We went round in pairs and took photos of different things such as trees, flowers and leaves.

Wednesday

Woke up to sun. Today we went swimming, the place was cool. After we got back to the farm, me Casey and Sherae went bike riding. It was live. Then we went sleep. Oh yeah forest camp.

Thursday

I stayed and did the gardening. We dug up beetroots and lettuce and then potatoes. I also watered all the plants. Went more bike riding with Sherae and Casey. Then we blazed our music on Kyle's speaker and relaxed. We made new friends. We also did a Video workshop. We each made up a news story

Friday

Woke up, ate breakfast, packed our stuff and got back in the minibus and back to London. I would definitely go again.

Joshanna, age 13





We were approached in November 2013 to see if we would like to have beehives on our roof and I said yes, and now we have four hives. The bees are very interesting and I love watching them. They go out in search of nectar and pollen – nectar is a liquid which they bring back in their mouths, deposit it in the honeycomb cells, and it changes into honey, which is a food store to get them through the winter. Pollen is brought to the hives strapped by hairs to the bees legs, it is bright yellow and you can clearly see the bees bringing it into the hives. This is put into honeycomb cells and is used as food for the bees.

In the summer we check the bees weekly, putting on our beesuits and lifting out the frames one by one. We check that the bees look healthy and are buzzing about in a productive manner. I have learned to distinguish different types of honeycomb cells – those used to store food i.e. honey or pollen, and those called ‘brood cells’ which contain larvae which transform into bees, taking either 21 or 24 days, depending on whether they are worker bees or drones.

Steve Shaw, Assitant beekeeper

PADDINGTON HONEY



Today I was invited to a bee inspection by Steve. Before we started our inspection of the honey bees we put on our protective gear; when we started I let the professionals do their work as I was not as confident being near the bees. I sat and I watched, growing more confident around the bees; I asked many questions and learnt a lot of things, like the queen bee has a white spot painted on her back so she can be easily identified, because if the queen dies then the colony will die. I also learnt that the worker bees are female and the drones (which perform no useful help in the colony) are male and are bigger than the worker bees. I eventually got closer to the bees and held a frame with honeycomb and compared it to one which the worker bees had not yet started, the weight difference was incredible. I really enjoyed the bee inspection very much and would do it again.

Tiana, age 14



**'Paddington's Got Talent' part of the Paddington Festival,
Maida Hill Market**



**Carnival Costumes displayed as part of the Paddington Festival,
Maida Hill Market**





Pupils from Paddington Academy receive their certificates and DVD for completing a Digital Media and Environmental Awareness project



Video Project with Lewisham Youth Offenders Summer Project

AWARDS



Paddington Arts works with the Jack Petchey Foundation to recognise the outstanding achievements of our members



This year Paddington Arts received the London Youth Gold Quality Mark for our excellent approach to working with young people



Paddington Arts by Numbers: Sept 2013 - Aug 2015

WORKSHOPS

815

Total number of workshop sessions.

WORKSHOPS DANCE, DRAMA, STEELPAN,
THAI BOXING, BREAKDANCE

65

Average
number of
individuals
attending
workshops
per week.

Total number of workshop
attendees

4166

PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Total number of Projects and Events

38

45

Total number of sessions

Pimlico Youth Club
Maida Hill Market - Steel Pan
AGM
Winter Show
Pre Judgement Day 16-26 Drama
Scratch Night 16-26 Drama
Milkshake Disco
Blaze - Peacock Theatre
Young Elimu Heritage Group
Big Dance Bus
B Boyz Dance Off

Film Nation TBAP
Pre Carnival Launch
Annual Show
Carnival Launch
Hope and Fears - Pimlico
TBAP - Latimer & Academy
Farm Trip
Summer School
Notting Hill Carnival
Black History Month
Thank you Carnival Party

Total number of participants

2094

2429

Total number of young people worked with

Staff and Tutors

Director

Steve Shaw

General Manager

Sharon Marshall

Head of Performing Arts

Eldora Edward

Admin Volunteer

Kathy Nath

Dance Tutors

Chloe McFayden, Eldora Edward, Isaac Baptiste,
Kerin Morris, Kyle McKitty

Drama Tutors

Colin Vidal, Eldora Edward

Steel Pan Tutors

Marvin Barrie, Nicholas Weekes

Summer Project Staff

Edward Edward, Nicholas Weekes,
Tori Sian Pegus

Volunteers

Colin, Dionne, Jason, Lenny, Matthew, Nicholas,
Shaun.

Volunteer Gardener and Beekeeper

Mike Wohl

Caretaker and Cleaners

Colin Vidal, Debbie Boyce, Junior Browne,
Nicholas Moore

Managemnet Committee

- Alan Hayling (Chair)
- Alison Piddock (Vice Chair)
- Vanessa Suri (Treasurer)
- Luke Nelson (Company Secretary)
- Adele Braithwaite
- Alison Stanley
- Cllr Barrie Taylor
- Daniel McCarthy
- Jennifer Williams
- Leandra Box
- Lionel McCalman
- Pat Buckley
- Yvonne Dawood



Funders

- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Arts Council
- WECH
- London Youth Grant
- Awards for All
- Film Nation UK
- Rose Foundation
- Jack Petchey Foundation
- John Lyon's Charity
- BBC Children in Need



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