

PADDINGTON ARTS

ANNUAL REPORT | 2011 - 2012



paddington
arts



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ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012

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VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

This year has flown past! There has been so much happening at Paddington Arts. We have maintained our regular sessions and changed others this year. New activities have been floated, and exciting ideas have been mooted for next year. Amongst the highlights this year has been the expansion of the Digital Media programme, the Winter and Summer Shows, Building Blocks, the Summer School, Carnival, and the Farm Trip (and the wonderful and funny video made of the trip).

Behind the scenes the Management Committee has met regularly, to provide overall direction and support to the staff team. Alan Hayling, our Chair has been on paternity leave, and we hope to welcome him back next year. In the meantime, we have said goodbye with thanks to some very long standing members of the Committee, but our new members are contributing to our mix of skills, much needed in the current climate. In common with every voluntary organisation we are facing challenging times financially, but the Committee is looking at innovative ways of fund raising, and we are keeping a close eye on funds, to ensure that Paddington Arts can continue to provide a service to local young people into the future.

As ever, we are hugely grateful to Steve, our Director, and all the staff and tutors who have worked very hard to make the year a success. But most importantly, the Management Committee is delighted that so many young people continue to come to Paddington Arts, to explore their creativity in varied ways. It is the young people's energy and enthusiasm that makes Paddington Arts a special place.

Alison Stanley



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The highlight of 2012 was undoubtedly the Olympics and Paralympic Games. Not only did it create a feelgood factor around the country, it demonstrated values very similar to those we encourage at Paddington Arts: commitment and talent; teamwork and excellence; dedication, practice, and, of course, performing in front of an audience.

Not everyone is aware that there was also a Cultural Olympics taking place, in which Paddington Arts took part in a variety of ways. 15 dancers who practiced at Paddington Arts and performed at our annual show, took part in the opening ceremony, as did one of our dance tutors. The Associate Producer of the Opening Ceremony, Paulette Randall, ran drama sessions at Paddington Arts a few years ago, and Eldora did a work placement with her at Stratford East Theatre. One of the main choreographers also used to teach with us, and a young woman called Lizzie Emeh, who sang at Paddington Arts at our Westsiders events, took to the stage at the Opening of the Paralympics and did backing vocals with Beverley Knight.

In addition we received a Cultural Olympic micro-grant, to develop a project that espoused the olympic values of respect, excellence and friendship. This project looked at the views of young people before the olympics had actually started, and culminated in a dvd which included stills, video and spoken word. This video was taken to Barbados in the summer by the tutor, who showed it to young people there, and recorded their views, so this can hopefully develop into an exchange programme between the two countries.

Of course, the Olympics was not the only highlight of the year as far as our members are concerned, and our annual show was regarded by many as our biggest and best ever. It included three video clips on our own giant monitors (one dance, one drama, one documentary), and three young poets, using spoken word to comment on their lives. We had two over 16 dance groups (one of which went on to perform at the olympic games as I already said), and with Thai boxers and breakdancers, steelpanners and a drama piece by four nine year olds, the triumph on stage for our performers was as great as any achievement at the olympic stadium.

Steve Shaw

PERFORMING ARTS

This year we've seen the biggest and best annual show within the programming department, with over 103 members all taking part in steel-pan, dance, drama or multi media.

Some of the projects run within Paddington Arts are in conjunction with young people with special needs and learning difficulties, we were able to introduce a section in the annual show of their work through photography and video whilst also mixing mainstream young people with special needs young people, this was undertaken within our steel pan group and worked extremely well enabling our two groups to work as one.

This year we introduced the young people of Paddington Arts to the Arts Award scheme, which is assessed by Trinity College and enables our young people to gain a nationally recognised qualification. The award can be achieved at bronze, silver or gold level. In total 19 of our young people from the 6-10s dance and drama performing group successfully completed the 'Explore' arts award programme, next year I will be putting them through on an upper level 'Discover' before moving on again to bronze and silver.

These two achievements have really been the highlight of my year and hopefully we can build on these to make them even bigger and better.

Eldora Edward



YOUTH MEDIA

This year has seen a number of programmes expand and new ones strengthened.

Social Media: This has been an exciting development. Paddington Arts has five social media sites: -



1. FACEBOOK.COM/PADDINGTON ARTS (4001 LIKES)
2. FACEBOOK.COM/REELTALKMAG (2001 LIKES)
3. TWITTER.COM/PADARTS (3001 FOLLOWERS)
4. TWITTER.COM/REELTALKMAG (1001 FOLLOWERS)
5. PADDINGTONARTS.ORG.UK/YOUTHMEDIA

The work on these sites has been interesting and it has been hard work building the numbers up without a dedicated communications team. We are always seeking to increase our

audience and share our message, if you haven't yet 'followed' or 'liked' us, what are you waiting for? Tweet us @PadArts & LIKE us on Facebook.

Digital Stories: We worked with the Media Trust, Adobe Youth Voices, City of Westminster College. The focus was 'social change', which one group expressed in terms of STD's and safe sex, whilst another group expressed the somewhat tragic consequences of what happens *when you don't listen to your mother*. It was Paddington Arts' first foray into the world of digital media convergence – pulling multifarious strands of media and technology together to make art.



Bryan Anderson

ANNUAL SHOW



ANNUAL SHOW



Casey, age 10

"I like breakdancing because the style is very hip hop and it's just the way breakers move on the floor that just catches me. We feel very confident within ourselves when we dance, we feel like we can almost do anything."

"When I grow up I want to be a professional breaker dancing all around the world and having fun"

- "Yes my mum can cook rice! Actually!!"

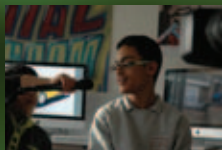
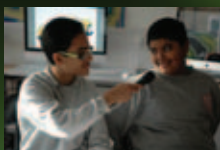
- "When can she cook rice? Your mum's rice is like pollyfilla; I can fill the holes in my wall with it!"



BUILDING BLOCKS

The Building Blocks project aims to help young people with learning difficulties aged 14 - 25 to make a smooth and rewarding transition to adulthood. We believe that creativity is a powerful tool to build confidence and we use digital media to explore themes around identity and what it means to lead a happy and fulfilling life. The work the students have produced has been inspiring and full of energy and personality.

More than 50 young people took part, incorporating painting and drawing, digital photography, filmmaking, design with Photoshop and poetry. We have been using the state-of-the-art digital newsroom and its suite of apple mac computers to gain important technical skills and develop confidence with digital media. Here are some of the projects we have undertaken this year.



Transport Project

We explored the theme of travel and transport and began the project with a visit to the London Transport Museum. This fired up our imaginations and gave us plenty of inspiration to design exciting artwork about how we travel about and our favourite ways of doing so. The year 9 participants took really well to using Photoshop to design pages for the magazine. Also a very talented group of artists, they scanned in their drawings and paintings to use in the magazine alongside text and digital photographs. They learned how to operate professional video and audio equipment and used this to record interviews with each other.

Building Blocks

BUILDING BLOCKS



Creative Magazines with PIP

PIP, a fantastic local organisation who support young adults with learning difficulties, brought five of their students to Paddington Arts for a ten-week digital media project in Spring term 2012. Each student worked on their own magazine, and were encouraged to take this in whichever direction they wished, which allowed their personality and talent to shine. The group were very creative and used drawing and artwork alongside text and digital images to bring into Photoshop to design pages for their magazines.



"I like working with others and I really enjoyed using the computers. I would like to come back and do more"
(PIP Participant)

BUILDING BLOCKS



Visual CVs

For this project we explored four areas: our interests, experience, skills and qualities and in doing so developed vocabulary and fluency in presenting ourselves in a positive and confident way. The students all had very rich work and voluntary experience and brought in their own images to use in their digital magazines. They were all very competent in using Photoshop and designed very exciting pages using backgrounds and digital images. The magazines are documents they will be able to use for their future development and to present to future employers and educational establishments.

"Photoshop produced wonderful results.... By the time the project was concluding the students were definitely becoming more independent and managing more on their own"
(College Park Teacher)



Healthy Eating Posters

We took our inspiration from propaganda posters to make campaigns for our favourite healthy food items. Using digital photography, we took portraits of each other with our food items to then use in Photoshop. Fantastic drawing and painting skills were unleashed with still-life artwork sessions and these were then scanned into the computer to use in our poster designs. The results were fantastic and printed into large-scale posters.

"it has given them an opportunity to learn new skills in a different environment"
(College Park Teacher)



All About Me

All About Me was an exciting project undertaken in collaboration with LDN Living and the Westminster Society that saw 9 young adults come to Paddington Arts for 13 weekly workshops. This project was very much about identity and recording ideas around our likes and dislikes and what makes us happy. I used a mixture of creative artwork and painting sessions combined with computer workshops to build work to make digital magazines. We painted life-size portraits of ourselves, made props for photoshoots and talked about what our perfect day would be. Every participant made their own personal magazine was presented to them at an awards ceremony at the end of the project.

WORD OF MOUTH

*"This is my life
Like northern lights
Flickering in and out of focus
Days blurring together
And changing forever
Never knowing
What the future's holding
With my family a diva
An upright believer
That the world is waiting for me
But at times my eyes
Are covered in cries
Thinking that I'll never make it
Listening and waiting
I feel myself changing
But into what I can't really see
Quiet and lonely
I feel like a phoney
I don't want that to be me"*

*It's a problem with no outright solution
Looking back at the past
Wishing things back
That didn't last
Thinking you know what you want
But it's just a front
Regretting the stupid things you never
done
Having reconsidered every turn
I've realised I learnt a lot from my
mistakes
I wanna make this music thing work
No matter what it takes"*

Tyrone, age 19

Word of Mouth is a powerful project that combines the power of the Spoken Word through interesting debate programmes and slam poetry with the power of new digital technologies. It will allow young people to discuss issues and ideas; to express their imagination and creativity; and it will help them on their path towards further education and employment.

Running through the second year of the project has seen some fantastic talent flourish and seen others brought to the fore. We have had young people perform in our Annual Show as a result of some of our success. This year sees Paddington Arts hosting its own Poetry Slam. Thursday 26th November from 11 – 1pm will see four schools, WAC and Save the Children's Youth Ambassadors meeting here to duke it out to see who has the best skills. We've been working with Chris Preddie OBE and some fantastic new poets.

Our first ever Poetry Slam was Thursday November 10th 2011, pupils from five schools attended our inter-school Slam Poetry competition that had 12 performers from participating schools and over 80 audience members. Joelle Taylor along with Chris Preddie, Pace and 5x Slam Poet champion Beyonder, taught the contestants of the event. Three judges - including a representative of Paddington Arts (Eldora Edward), a representative from the Poetry Society (Ally Davies) and a graduate of the Poetry Slam project, TRNUH (Tiana Oldroyd) - scored the acts on originality, performance and the poem itself. They individually scored and identified the highest-scoring 3rd, 2nd and 1st placed acts. The winning acts were announced at the culmination of the showcase event and presented with trophies.

*3...2...1 a bullet gets shot out of your gun
I never in my life do I want my mind
twisted to hold a gun
this is one of my biggest fears
I'm on the floor – dead
people thinking they're hardcore
really they're just unloved
killing, hating, stabbing and shooting
I need to remember that I only have one life
Don't mess up by pulling your trigger to a gun
BANG! A person on the floor dying
because of your actions
Your life will never be the same again
Others looking at you in disgust
Your mother looking at you in disgrace
Twenty is the last time you will see your mother
Your life's messed up
Next you will end with a trigger getting pushed
towards your own head
Ask yourself do you want to end up like that?*

Jordan, age 11



WORD OF MOUTH



I've always wanted to meet my favourite celebs, JGL, Bon Jovi and much, much more. They inspire me, have talents and are just damn pretty. They can play guitars, act for TV and sing for MTV. I wanna meet you someday whilst listening to 'This Is Love' by will.i.am. Celebs, celebs, celebs, celebs, celebs, celebs. I WANNA MEET AXEL ROSE from Guns 'n' Roses. But is that possible, I'm always turning myself down. I know it's silly, but hey it's true so I rest my case and have a nice day. No, I was kidding, I want to carry on, this is way fun. I have an idol, actually many, but make sure you pick the right one, not all of them lead you the right way. And just to put it out there, I love the Royal family. Also, something else you should think about, don't wish you were your favourite celeb, be proud of who you are; your race; your culture and your religion and say Me, Myself and I.

Yusra, age 11

*When Minx passed away
She just lay
In a bed full of sawdust
I cleaned her cage to wash
out the rust*

*When Minx left
It was like there had been
a theft
Everyone had to cry
Not a single eye was dry*

*When Minx went away
All I could say
Was goodbye
With a sigh*

Lily, age 10

*What is hope? What is fear?
Hope is what you want
Fear is you being scared
So fight for your hope
And defeat your fears
There's fears in your mind
But you know deep down
There's hope in your heart
Your heart is full of hope
And your mind is full of
Fears just get them out
So you won't be in tears*

*Fears are around you
So fight it but not
With a gun or a knife
Do sensible things or just
Let them go*

Anika, age 11



*You can't be me
Cause you're not me
Don't try to be a bee
Cause you can't watch me*

*Take me as I am
Or I won't be with you
Everyone is different
I am not part of the norm*

Rita, age 11





All New Singing Dancing Dracula?: A Review



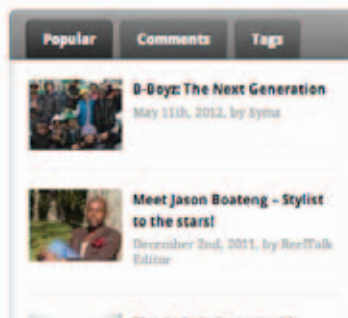
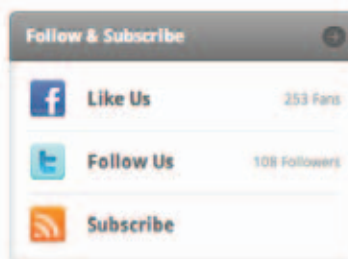
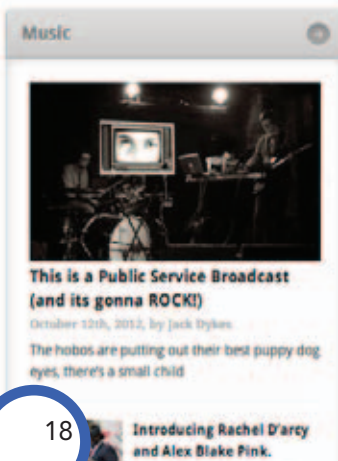
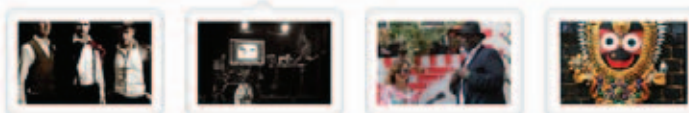
This is a Public Service Broadcast (and its gonna ROCK!)



Introducing Rachel D'arcy and Alex Blake Pink.



To be a Soul Sister: The Audition Blues



I joined the Reel Talk team in July 2012.

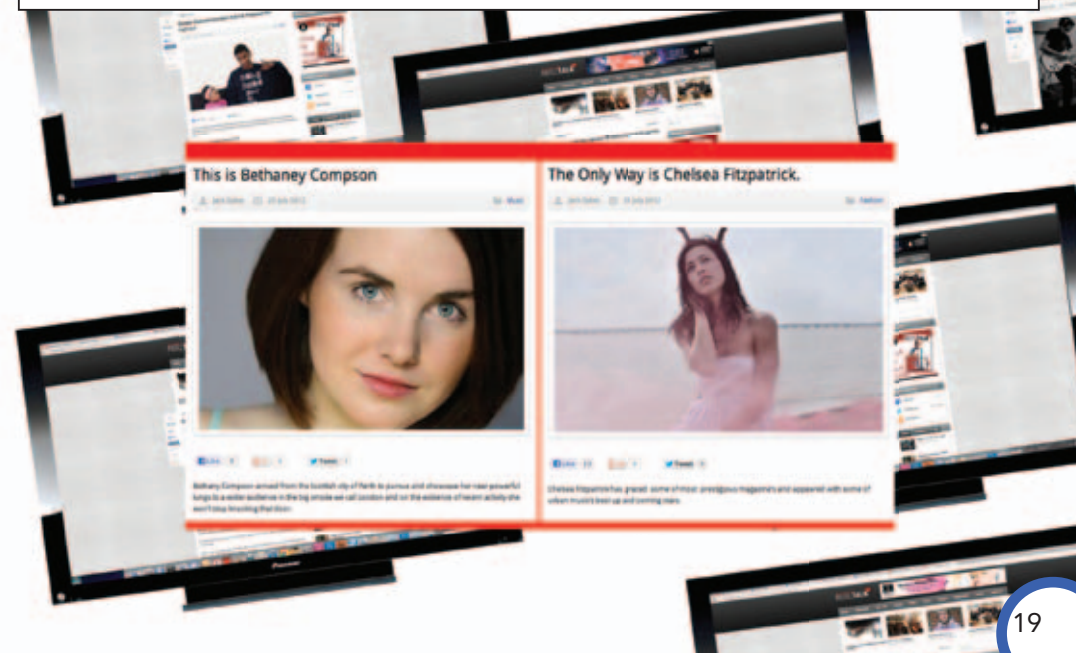
Reel Talk is an online magazine and its main purpose is to inspire our young audience interests in Music, Drama, spoken word poetry or visual arts.

My role requires me to research and highlight young artists in London, to showcase their work and detail their experience and how they pursue their aspirations in performing arts.

I have had the privilege of participating and researching a wealth of different events including the colourful vibrant atmosphere of Notting Hill Carnival, judging a young persons poetry competition, a lady strumming a ukulele with a beat boxer and a dance company using physical theatre to express issues concerning society and young people.

The articles I compose show what hard work these artist have done to break into the tough industry of mainstream performance art, and serve as an example to our young audience what can be achieved via hard work and most importantly the joy and self satisfaction of creating art.

Jack Dykes



FARM TRIP

"When I was stroking the pig, all the hair was like straw; and when I was stroking the chicken, its feathers was very smooth and light and that's why I thought those were the two best things I done"

Chenae, age 7

"I learned how to feed chickens and sheep and if the sheep hurt their foot I learned how to make it better"

Mia, age 5

"The countryside isn't just about animals and stuff it's about nature and insects. When we went into the forest we made a shelter and it was really fun to work with other people and have different experiences"

Miriam, age 10

"I've conquered my fear of bugs and insects and I would like to come here again if I get the chance"

Myisha, age 10



CARNIVAL



"It was the last two days of the month. The 26th and the 27th of August 2012 when the excitement begun.

On these two days I had woke up extra early so that I could get ready and head down to Mas Camp, where the atmosphere was absolutely exciting. It was the day we were all waiting for.

As we walked down through the Carnival we arrived at the judging point where we had to try and impress the judges so we could get more sponsors. At the moment we are sponsored by Grace.

The part I liked the most was the music and dancing, I didn't like that we had to go home even though we had an after party later on in the day."

Sherae, age 11





"I got involved by starting out volunteering with Reel Talk Live. We helped to organise and present the live events that Reel Talk had. This enabled me to pick up all the basic skills I needed to organise future events."

Right now I've been working on a project called BoundFree media which enables me and other young adults to express ourselves through a blog. We film and photograph talents then blog all the outcomes. We are slowly building up an audience.

Paddington Arts has allowed me to pick up skills and accomplish tasks I could not have done in the past. They have facilitated and given me the platform to start projects that would have been very difficult to complete on my own. I have learned many skills while being here which has expanded my choices for future careers I may wish to pursue."

Senait, age 23



PADDINGTON ARTS BY NUMBERS

September 2011 – August 2012

WORKSHOPS

132 Average number of individuals attending workshops per week

571 Total number of workshop sessions

4943 Total number of workshop attendees

WORKSHOPS:

Dance | Drama | Steelpan | Singing | Breakdance | Thai Boxing



PROJECTS AND EVENTS:

47 Total number of Projects and Events

1199 Total number of participants

162 Total number of sessions

PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Footloose Friday
Word Of Mouth (performance Poetry):

- Westminster Academy
- Bales College
- Theatre Arts Young Women
- Paddington Academy
- Pimlico School
- St Augustines



Notting Hill Carnival
Summer School
Save the Children
The Otherside of Gold
Annual Show:
Digital Stories
Building Blocks:

- Hillingdon School
- College Park
- PIP
- QEII



STAFF AND TUTORS

Director
Steve Shaw

General Manager
Sharon Marshall

Admin Volunteers
Levi Coreana
Francesca Orfali Guerra

Youth Media Development Manager
Bryan Anderson

Building Blocks Development Worker
Gemma Riggs

Head of Performing Arts
Eldora Edward

Gap Worker
Symone Hector

Dance Tutors
Isaac Baptiste, P.J. Dacas
Eldora Edward, Kyle McKitty, Kerin Morris

Drama Tutors
Eldora Edward
Colin Vidal
Dan Farrell

Singing Tutor
Fae Simon

Steel Pan Tutors
Marvin Barrie, Nicholas Weekes

Thai Boxing Instructor
Bryan Anderson

Summer Project Staff
Eldora Edward, Jordan Henderson, Daniel Shaw, Nicholas Weekes.

Volunteers
Helen, Mandy, Adele, Pam, Pat, Symone,
Judith, Matthew, Lenny, Geanie, Colin,
Jennifer, Dionne, Lucy, Kelly, Mel, Paul, Nicky,
Margaret.

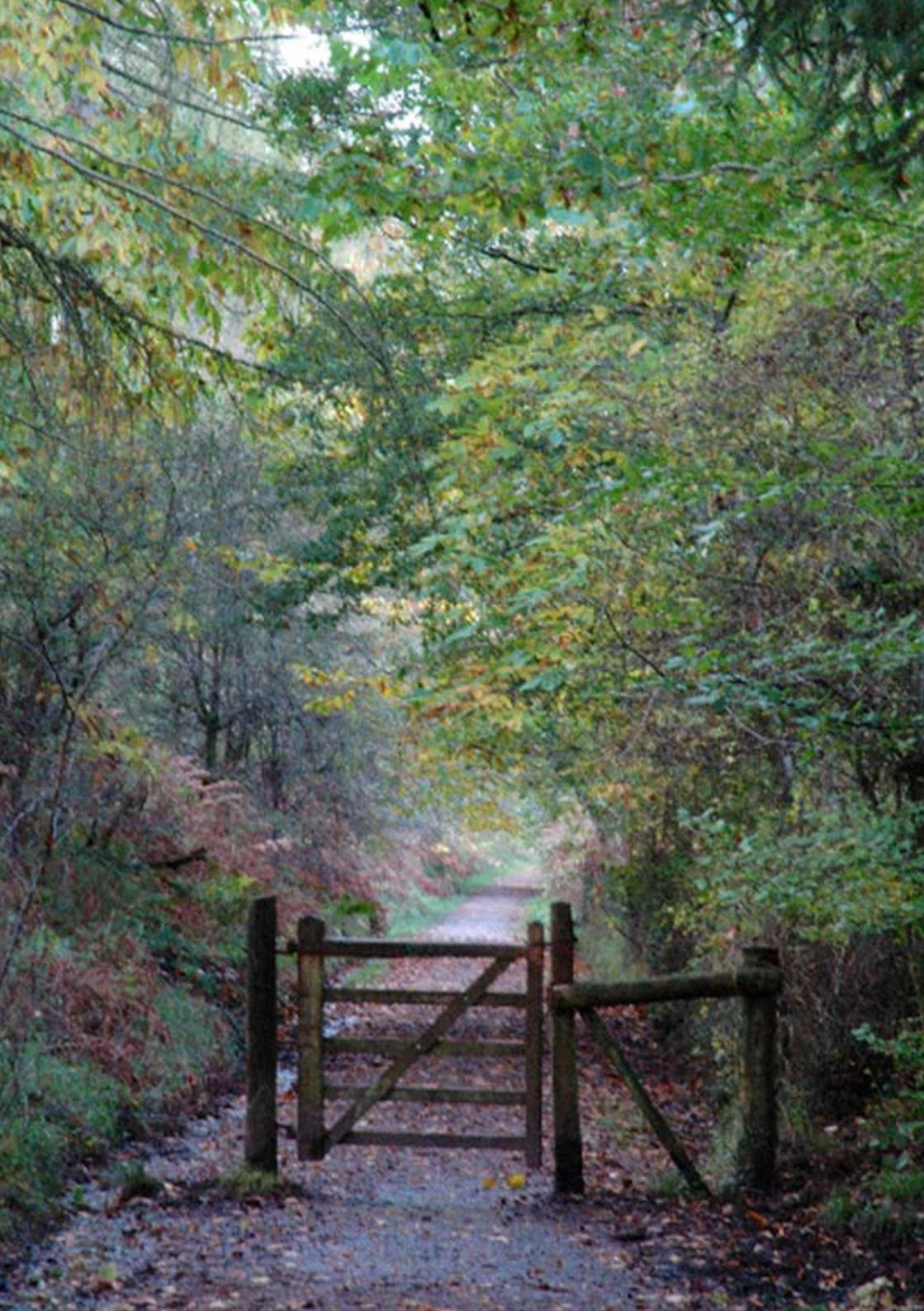
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Alan Hayling (Chair)
Alison Stanley (Vice Chair)
Thomas Kirby (Co. Secretary)
David A. Egan (Treasurer)
Leandra Box
Adele Braithwaite
Pat Buckley
Lionel McCalman
Cllr. Guthrie McKie
Judith Peterson
Angela Piddock
Nancy VandenBergh
Jennifer Williams
Clara Hoalim-Jones

FUNDERS

Adobe Youth Voices
Arts Council England
Big Lottery Fund
City Bridge Trust
City of Westminster
Capital Community Foundation
Edward Harvist Trust
John Lyon's Charity
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Rose Foundation
Westminster Amalgamated Charity
Rank Foundation
3SC





Paddington Arts Annual Report 2011/12

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