

REFLEC- TIONS

2020/24




LET'S DANCE
NOT FIGHT 

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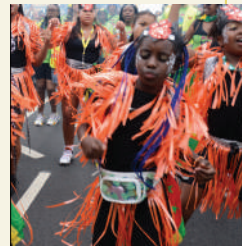
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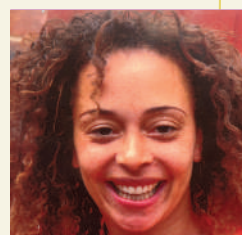
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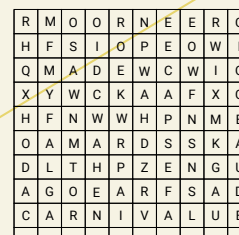
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FOR- WARD



These past few years have been a bumpy road! Covid affected everyone, some got hit worse than others, but no one escaped the isolation, the anxiety, the uncertainty and the confusion; and most of us got sick too, to a greater or lesser degree.

Our members had their education seriously interrupted, and many found integrating back into their school lives particularly difficult. However, the activities we offer are even more keenly appreciated by young people and their parents, because they offer benefits socially, physically and mentally. As a result of covid recovery funding, we have established a new programme called Emotional Support Programme that offers our members the opportunity to speak to a trusted adult about anything they wish to.



Despite Lockdown, or because of it, instead of our annual and xmas show in 2020, we put out a 'live' streaming show, 'Let's Dance Not Fight' which combined a positive message with some sensational dancing complete with professional lighting and camera angles. You can still check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7wBvehj0Fw>

Notting Hill Carnival was cancelled in 2020 and 2021, but we put out a small children's carnival event in 2021, followed up with a fullscale return to NHC in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Our centre is busier than ever, and we have spent the last few years discussing the future: we plan to build an extension so we can run even more activities and also provide more income to keep things going.

Steve Shaw

Steve Shaw



PERFORMING ARTS



THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY YEAR! 2020/24



Getting myself and the young people of Paddington Arts through the lockdown period over Covid was my biggest challenge in 2020. When lockdown ended we started the Paddington Arts Emotional Support Programme. This programme is helping many young people as it allows them to talk to an adult known to them.

This year I gave myself the challenge to write a script which would mix mainstream young people with young people who have hidden disabilities, I chose the musical Annie, updating it to the Harrow Road and setting it in 2024.

It was incredible to see how mainstream youths and those with hidden disabilities supported each other, learned from one another, and grew together, the friendships formed, the empathy developed, and the resilience built are testaments to the young people's kindness and understanding for each other.

Eldora Edward Deputy Director/ Youth Arts Participation and Development Manager.



A STEPPING STONE FOR THE STARS OF THE FUTURE

Jasmine Jobson says she was branded “the most difficult child in Westminster” by social services as a teenager. But now she’s a BAFTA-winning actress with credits in Netflix’s *Top Boy*, ITVX’s *Platform 7* and *Surge*. Jasmine credits Paddington Arts with kickstarting her love for the creative arts. She recently visited Paddington Arts with a film crew, who are making a documentary about her life.

“

I’ve been doing performing arts since I was a little girl. I started at a performing arts club called Paddington Arts. They’re based in West London, on the Harrow Road. I started there when I was six, doing singing, dancing and acting. That was where I honed in on my love for it

”



**LET'S
DANCE
NOT
FIGHT**

**I FEEL DANCING IS A WAY
TO EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS
AND EMOTIONS,
IT'S NOT LIKE WRITING
DOWN STUFF, IT'S LIKE A
FREEDOM OF SPEECH BUT
THROUGH DANCE
MOVEMENTS.**



Donae Francis Prince - 16





LET'S DANCE
NOT FIGHT

I would say there's no point in doing all this postcode war business because at the end of the day, it's a place, you can go there, doesn't mean if you're black, you're white, you're pink, you're blue, you should be able to just walk around wherever you want to, and it's all so petty.



Pack it in!
Why do you
feel the need
to fight, it
just don't
make sense.

Donae - 16



PACK IT
IN!





WHEN MY SCHOOL GOT INTO A FIGHT...



Basically, when my school got into a fight with another school, it ended badly because the other school had knives and two people died, and they were in Year 11. It started because of music rappers not liking each other on social media and the kids took it on. It was shocking and horrifying because it's like our generation are doing this kind of stuff on a daily basis.

Ellie - 17





Dancing and fighting are both ways in which you express your emotions except dancing is more of a peaceful way and nobody gets hurt at the end of the day.



There's no need to fight, you can just solve it through talking, you can do something that you love instead, like dancing, instead of fighting over things.

Jush - 17



**YOU CAN DO
SOMETHING
YOU LOVE**

YOUTH MEDIA



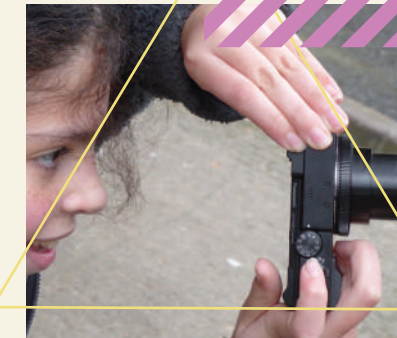
I liked using professional equipment and making such a high quality documentary.

Rhys, 14



I liked it when I wrote a rap song and performed it to the camera.

Tyreese, 14



I enjoyed going around with my friends and taking pictures of them.

I also enjoyed finding interesting things to take a photo of.

Lola, 11

**FROM THE MOMENT I CAME HERE
I UNPACKED MY BAGS, MADE MY BED
AND WENT OFF TO EXPLORE THE FARM.
WE SAW SOME ANIMALS AND FED
THEM AND TOUCHED THEM AND
PLAYED WITH THEM.**

The next day, Tuesday was good. I woke up went to the shower and washed and came back to my room and made the bed got ready and everything – then had breakfast. We had a chill day then we fed more animals and met the new animals. I held an owl and held guinea pigs. I also touched a rabbit. Then we had a camp fire and roasted marshmallows.

TRIP



On Wednesday we went up this massive mountain all the way to the top, and Melissa took a picture of me in front of the Tor. The we walked back down and had fish fingers and chips for lunch. When we was coming back, Cici and Katie and me was picking cherry plums, and we also touched some horses. After lunch we made bird boxes and bug hotels.

Today we went to town, and I got a present for my mum and two bracelets for me and some other stuff. So yeah that's what I've done also played blind man's bluff and had hot chocolate and biscuits.

Quincy, 12



WHEN WE ARE AT THE FARM, WE LEAVE OUR PHONES AND THE ONLINE WORLD BEHIND, AND DO PRACTICAL THINGS LIKE MAKING A FIRE, AND SAWING WOOD.



AND WE HAVE 'REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES' THAT YOU CAN'T GET IN THE INNER CITY, LIKE PADDLING IN THE SEA, AND SPENDING TIME WITH OUR FRIENDS



CARNIVAL

“

Carnival is a very fun experience full of colour and passion. I love the culture, music and dance. After attending Paddington Arts Carnival over the years, it is safe to say that they are a very bright community that care about children and their well-being.

Carnival is such a happy time of year and to be a part of such a group/ band is extraordinary. The memories I have made are some I will cherish forever.

Ci Ci, 13

”

SCHOOL ARTS PROGRAMME

Since 2021 we have re-started our programme of Arts in Schools, thanks to funding from John Lyon's Charity. We have worked with 11 schools – three secondary, six primary, and two special needs schools. All schools have a very diverse intake, and a majority of the pupils come from a disadvantaged and vulnerable background.

We delivered workshops in Photography, Visual Arts, Dance, Carnival Arts, Spoken Word and Video Documentary. Our aim is to bring creativity into schools and into the curriculum. There is huge appetite and appreciation from students and teachers for our work, as it is a break from traditional classroom learning, creative and fun.



**I LIKED TAKING PHOTOS
AND IT WAS SUPER FUN**



WE WORKED WITH CARNIVAL ARTIST CARL GABRIEL. THE THEME WE CHOSE WAS NIGHTAND DAY.

CARL MADE A LARGE SCULPTURE, WHICH YOU CAN SEE AT THE BACK OF THIS PICTURE. HE USES WIRE TO MAKE THE FRAME, AND THEN COVERS IT WITH PAPIER MACHEE.



WE MADE COSTUMES REPRESENTING THE SUN AND THE MOON..



WE HELPED HIM AND IT WAS FUN



**I LEARNT HOW TO TALK TO A CAMERA
AND FILM MULTIPLE ANGLES .**

Keikoh, 16



**I LIKED COLOURING THE FISH BECAUSE I
RARELY GET TO COLOUR AND I LIKED THE
MATERIALS WE USED**

Diar, 11

INTERNS

Iwent into my intern program in London with the intention of getting a chance to try my hand at journalism for the first time outside of a school setting. As it turned out, my placement couldn't have been more perfect. The staff at Paddington Arts welcomed me in and guided me towards stories as well as providing me with the equipment I needed.

In Journalism, you're always working outside of the routine. Any good piece is going to have something unique to say, and you don't have unique things to say if you don't step outside of the monotonous flow of what people expect you to do and say. I think that in my later assignments I was much more comfortable with going after what I needed and putting aside my nerves.

Toward the latter half of my internship I got the chance to get some valuable film and editing experience when I went to interview the sculptor Carl Gabriel nearby. I was

given plenty of opportunities to practice photography as well, including during Paddington Arts' production of the musical Annie.

I do wish I had another month or so here. I feel like I'm just hitting my stride, and I'd love to go out and take the initiative to find more stories in this community. I am happy though with what I've accomplished in this month or so, and I've appreciated being a part of such a tight knit and committed community here. You never know, maybe I'll cross paths with Paddington Arts again in the future.



George Clyde, studying Journalism and Political Science at University of Wisconsin, Madison

in my later assignments I was much more comfortable with going after what I needed and putting aside my nerves.

IN NUMBERS



Average number
of individuals
attending
after school
workshops
per week

72



Total number
of Projects
and Events:

130



Total number
of sessions:

514



After school
workshop
sessions

1120



Total number
of participants:

2682



Total number
of workshop
attendees

7510

STAFF PROFILES

Melissa Desbonnes



G My name is Melissa Desbonnes , I am the emotional support worker at Paddington Arts. My Journey with Paddington Arts first begun at a very young tender age, I won't say how old I was, but let's just say it started over 30 years ago!

What I am most proud of is that we here at Paddington arts are a huge part of the community, this is evident in the wonderful performances. Our goals and aspirations are to keep young people motivated and on the move! We hope to continue to deliver what the community needs. And I am glad to be a part of it.

Having worked with so many young people over the years, it is so heart-warming and overwhelming when they return with their own children and share their experiences and memories, reminding us of our purpose here at Paddington arts!

Most past members are shocked on their return to find Eldora and I still here, and I think we can both agree we are not going anywhere anytime soon!



Eldora & Melissa 1987

1: In what year did Paddington Arts begin?

- A: 1901
- B: 1987
- C: 2003

2: What is the name of the founder/director of Paddington Arts?

- A: Steve Jobbs
- B: Steve Gastoff
- C: Steve Shaw

3: What type of organisation is Paddington Arts?

- A: Performing Arts and Media Centre
- B: Sports Centre
- C: Youth Club

4: What age groups do Paddington Arts cater for?

- A: 11-22 Yrs
- B: 16-45 Yrs
- C: 6-26 Yrs

5: What is the name of the Paddington Arts disco, that has been running for over 25 years?

- A: Burger Disco
- B: Fizzy Disco
- C: Milkshake Disco

6: What is the Paddington Arts post code?

- A: W10 IPQ
- B: W9 2ZH
- C: W9 2BE

7: Paddington Arts has a unique room at the top of its building with a glass roof, what is the name of this room?

- A: The Pyramid Room
- B: The Cube Room
- C: The Cylinder Room

8: What is the name of the Paddington Arts campaign to reduce youth violence?

- A: Keep Calm and Carry On
- B: Let's Dance Not Fight
- C: Strictly Come Dancing

QUIZ

Quiz Answers: 1: B 2: C 3: A 4: C 5: C 6: C 7: A 8: B

WORD SEARCH

R	M	O	O	R	N	E	E	R	G
H	F	S	I	O	P	E	O	W	I
Q	M	A	D	E	W	C	W	I	O
X	Y	W	C	K	A	A	F	X	G
H	F	N	W	W	H	P	N	M	E
O	A	M	A	R	D	S	S	K	A
D	L	T	H	P	Z	E	N	G	U
A	G	O	E	A	R	F	S	A	D
C	A	R	N	I	V	A	L	U	E
A	N	N	U	A	L	S	H	O	W

DANCE
DRAMA

ANNUAL SHOW
GREEN ROOM

SAFE SPACE
CARNIVAL

STAFF AND TUTORS

Director:

Steve Shaw

Deputy Director / Head of Performing Arts:

Eldora Edward

General Manager:

Steve Roberts

Finance Officer:

Dipa Kotak

Dance Tutors:

Chloe McFayden,
Eldora Edward, Hudson
Jean Pierre, Melissa
Desbonnes, Zarah Oke,
Ryan Monroe, D.R.E.A.M.
Dance Company

Drama Tutors:

Eldora Edward,
Colin Vidal

Emotional Support Programme:

Eldora Edward, Melissa
Desbonnes, Mary Nyamie

Spoken Word Tutor:

Chris Preddie

Photography Tutor:

Steve Shaw

Video Tutors:

Steve Shaw, Wayne
'Zippy' Louis

Visual Arts/Carnival Arts Tutors

Carl Gabriel, Kamal el
Alaoui, Helen Davenport,
Gail Astbury, Ariella Giulivi

Singing Tutor:

Jelissa Raveneau

Steel Pan Tutor:

Eversley 'Breeze' Mills

Summer Project Staff:

Eldora, Melissa, Tyrone,
Daniel, Marcus, Hudson,
Junior, Naami, Magdalene,
Charmaine, Chloe,
Mary, Deujean

Social Media/Marketing:

Karina Saniuk

Volunteers:

Colin, Nicholas, Shaun, Melissa,
Tyrone, Tori, Daniel, Kyle, Sophie,
Naami, Wayne, Sharon, Shandol,
Antoinette

Caretaker and Cleaners:

Colin Vidal, Junior Browne,
Michael Charles

Maintenance:

Ricky St. Omer



TRUSTEES AND FUNDERS

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Alan Hayling

Vice Chair

Angela Piddock

Secretary

Leandra Box

Treasurer

Alan Lazarus

Alison Stanley

Adele Braithwaite

Pat Buckley

Lionel McCalman

Barrie Taylor
(d. February 2024)

Ansel Wong

Hamza Taouzzale

James Small-Edwards

Cheryl Joseph

Tracey Weekes



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JULIA RAUSING
— TRUST —



Westminster
Foundation



32 Woodfield Road
London, W9 2BE

T: 020 7286 2722

E: info@paddingtonarts.org.uk
paddingtonarts.org.uk

Charity No. 298879

