

digital:works

annual report 2018-19

About digital:works



Participation Through Creative Skills

digital:works is a group of artists and trainers who work with local communities, providing training and creative assistance, to produce arts and media projects.

We are committed to a participatory approach. Creative arts are an exciting way for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with and learn more about others from their local community – especially if they are the ones shaping and leading the creative process.

Thanks to our breadth of experience and expertise, we can provide training and creative support in a wide range of media, from web development, video and digital animation, to textile and oral history projects.

Accessible Projects for All

Our commitment to participation means we place great emphasis on inclusivity.

Our projects actively involve people from all corners of the community – be they young or old, visually or hearing impaired, or someone for whom English is not the first language.

The skills required in taking part in our projects do not depend on advanced media literacy or prior experience with digital equipment.

Community Ownership

Our goal with all projects is to encourage and maintain participants' sense of ownership of both the process and the final product. This, we believe, is the guiding principle of true participation work.

Chair's Report

The reporting year of 2018- 2019 has been a busy one during which we have continued to initiate our own projects as well as working in collaboration with outside organisations. We resumed our partnership with The Asian Health Agency to complete 'Panjabis of Southall', a film focusing on Panjabi pioneers in Southall. Looking at the first settlers from the Panjab, to the first shops, Gurdwaras, community organisations as well as the campaigns and struggles they went through to establish themselves in the UK.

We have also been working again with Westminster Archives on a film looking at the birth of the NHS on its 70th anniversary through interviews with academics and people who joined the service in its early years. Yet another collaboration with previous partners was a project looking at the Legend of Hengest with Crayford Reminiscence and Youth (CRAY). Interviewing historians, academics, museum staff and actors in role, filming took place in various locations in London and Kent. In retelling the story of Hengest the young people making the film were able to question its authenticity.

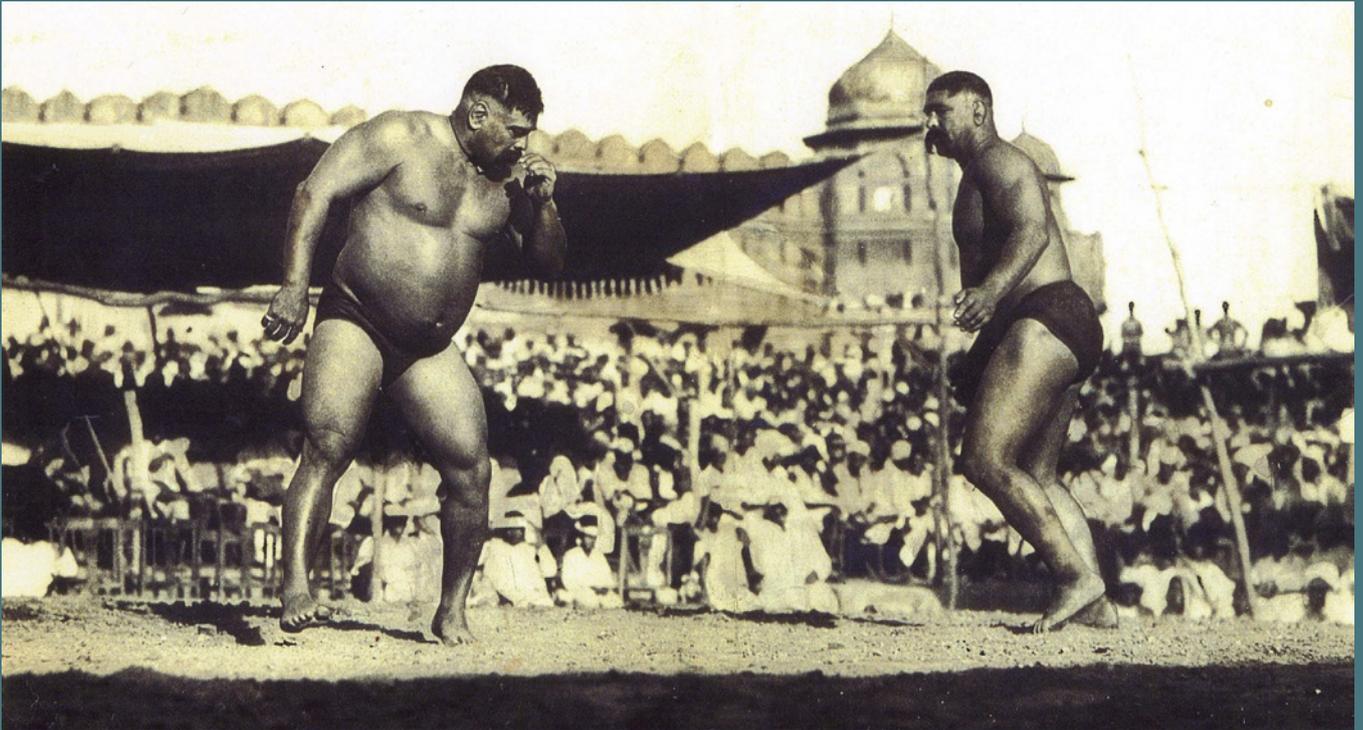
We worked on three projects that were initiated and developed by digital:works, one in partnership with Slough Wrestling Club. This involved working with their young participants to look at the history of Panjabi wrestling. The result is a fascinating look at how a centuries old sport has been passed down through generations within a community, made its way to the UK and developed into a love of the sport - albeit the modern version - by the second and third generations here. A second was born out of a previous project looking at Thames Lightermen and once again with the Museum of London Docklands, this time focussing on Thames Dockers. Lastly, we teamed up with a young people's refugee group, CARAS, an older people's group, the Furzedown Project and the Migration Museum to run a project recording people's journeys to the UK. This project looked at the pushes and pulls of migration and people's lives once they settled here.

We continue to seek new partnerships as well as working with familiar groups and we would like to thank all of the participants as well as those who provided funding including trades union Unite and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Peter McKenna, Chair

Review of the Year

digital:works have run 6 projects this year, three of them commissions: Panjabis of Southall with The Asian Health Agency; The Birth of the NHS with Westminster City Archives; and A Spot Called Crayford - the Legend of Hengest with CRAY. We have also undertaken three National Lottery Heritage Funded projects: On The Docks partnering with the Museum of London Docklands; Journeys with the Migration Museum; and a history of Panjabi Wrestling with young people from Slough Wrestling Club.



Panjabi Wrestling - Exploring the History of Pehlwani

A group of 12 young people led this project exploring the history of Panjabi Wrestling, known as Pehlwani.

They undertook research with an historian of the sport, took part in workshops to understand the role of the sport in Panjabi heritage, culture and religion and also how it arrived in the UK with the diaspora who came from India and Pakistan from the 1950s. They worked with a wrestling coach from Slough Wrestling Club to learn the actual skills of wrestling that are currently being lost.

The group learnt oral history and film making skills from digital:works and conducted interviews with older members of the UK based Panjabi community to explore and record the history of the sport. The interviews have also been edited to create an informative oral history based documentary.

We are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Slough Wrestling Club for financially supporting this project.

www.panjabiwrestling.org.uk



On The Docks - An Oral History of London's Dock Workers

This project is an oral history of London's dock workers focusing on the fascinating history of the people who worked on the docks of London from the 1930s up until the closing of the docks from the 1970s. It explores their working lives and how the docks shaped whole communities in London for centuries.

Children from Riverside and Westminster Cathedral primary schools which have links to the docks explored the history and gained skills enabling them to produce an exhibition and oral history based documentary film that has been shared widely. In order to deepen this learning we worked with the Museum of London Docklands, historians, two local archives and the community of retired dockers.

The young people were treated to a boat trip along the Thames with a guided history talk, an actor in the role of a docker carrying out activities and the opportunity to meet and talk to former dock workers.



We also worked closely with the Friends of Island History Group who helped us immensely throughout the project and continue to do so.

We are grateful to Unite the Union and the National Lottery Heritage Fund for financially supporting this project.

www.thamesdockers.org.uk



A Spot Called Crayford - The Legend of Hengest

We worked with Crayford Reminiscence and Youth over the summer to look generally at the Anglo-Saxon period and in particular the role of Crayford at the time. They went on many visits to locations where evidence still exists from the time as well as museums and universities. They interviewed many academics and authors as well as filming actors in role and using animation and 3D visualisations to tell their story.

www.crayfordhistory.org.uk/category/projects/the-legend-of-hengest



Panjabis of Southall - 70 years of Struggles and Achievements

This oral history documentary tells the story of early pioneering Panjabis who migrated to Southall in the 1950s and 1960s, their journey, settlement and struggles to establish themselves at work, in housing, in business and cultivate cultural activities for their community.

It features information on early Panjabi settlers, development of key organisations such as Sri Guru Singh Sabha, IWA, Southall Youth Movement and landmark national campaigns and struggles for Sikh Rights and against racial inequality and injustice.

Commissioned by The Asian Health Agency.

Towards a New Jerusalem - The Birth of the NHS

In the summer term of 2018, we worked with Servite Primary School to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the National Health Service. They interviewed historians, academics and retired NHS workers to build a picture of why a national health service was needed and the forces that came together to enable it to happen.

Commissioned by Westminster Archives



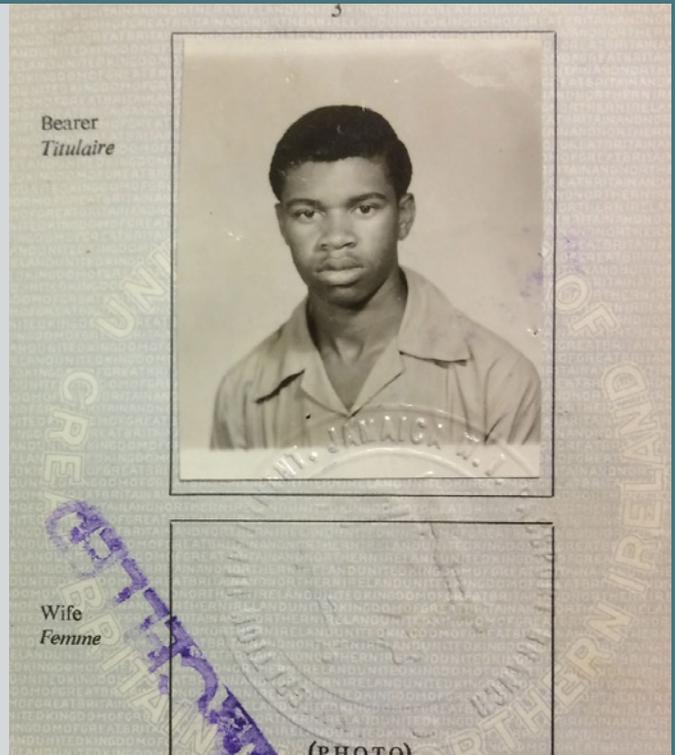
Journeys -

Stories of Immigration 1948-71

The period from 1948 to 1971 was a time when the British government invited people from the Commonwealth to come and live and work in the UK. People came from the Caribbean, from the Indian sub continent and beyond. Many thought they would stay a year or two but remained, raised families and became part of the fabric of the United Kingdom.

Children from Furzedown Primary School and young people from CARAS [Community Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers] have collected lots of fascinating and moving history from people who have moved to South West London - stories of their reasons for coming to the UK, their journeys, settling in the UK, finding homes and work, children's stories joining their parents in this new and strange land. They are a moving testimony to the energy and resolve of this generation - their humour and generosity, often in the face of extremely difficult circumstances.

The young volunteers were treated to a visit and activities at the Migration Museum, a history workshop, opportunities to meet and talk to many older migrants and a special workshop from Paul Canoville - Chelsea's first



black player - who talked about his mother's migration to the UK to work in the NHS, his childhood and the racism Black players faced early in his career.

Older volunteers took part in a history workshop, a visit to the Migration Museum and two reminiscence sessions.

Funded by Battersea Power Station Foundation and National Lottery Heritage Fund.

www.migrationstories.org.uk



Future Projects

Confirmed projects for 2019/20 include working with The London Transport Museum on their Hidden London Project; with Camden Council on their Camden Alive borough-wide arts project and on our own projects funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund looking at oral histories of Brewery workers in west London; London's WWII evacuees and Brentford Football Club.

Financial Report

The independent examination covered the year 6th April 2018 to 5th April 2019.

Our total income for the period was £117,743 [£123,970] made up mainly from Restricted Funds (successful funding applications) consisting of £91,173 [£83,885] accounted for mainly by the London Dockers project as well as final and first grant installments for other funded project just beginning and ending their life. Designated Income (commissions) amounted to £21,200 [£38,085]. The balance is made up from voluntary and investment income.

Our total expenditure to date is £124,927 [£92,843] which has mostly been spent directly on costs relating to the HLF funded projects £99,510 [£51,496], the commissions £21,200 [£38,085] and governance costs of £4,217 [£3,262] which includes a substantial equipment expenditure, insurance costs and accountancy fees.

The difference between income and expenditure over the year can be accounted for by projects being funded in one financial year while expenditure takes place in another.

We have no fixed assets as yet so are not affected by depreciation. We have no current liabilities.

Please contact us by email if you would like a copy of the full accounts.

[Last year's figures in brackets]

Trustees

Peter McKenna (Chair)
David Rogers (Treasurer)
Sally Booth (Vice-Chair)
Jenny Donaldson

Workers

Sav Kyriacou
Matthew Rosenberg
Mona Carr
Thanks to Peter Daniel



The young people introducing their film at the launch at Museum of London Docklands.

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