

KENNINGTON PARK FESTIVAL!

A DAY TO REMEMBER

A month on and we have just about wrapped up everything relating the festival and returned all the things we borrowed. We have had the chance to reflect on what went well and on what we could do better next year. There has been some great feedback from performers, community stallholders, traders and volunteers including ideas for improvements.

However you were involved in the day we hope you had fun. Here are a few reminders of what happened which we hope will make you smile.

An Interesting Start!

The rain stayed away even if the sun didn't make much of an appearance. The strong winds of the previous day clung on longer than expected, making erecting gazebos rather challenging. Despite this and through the support of lots of volunteers, setting up the festival went well with only one rather significant hitch. The promised 11am delivery of 30 tables and 50 chairs for stallholders and workshop leaders came and went, as did 12noon and 12.30pm. Just 15 minutes before start time and when organiser anxiety was reaching its peak, we heard that the furniture delivery team were nearby. At 2 minutes to 'festival time' the lorry finally appeared, volunteers sprang into action and the furniture was quickly distributed.

A short while after 1pm everything was in place, the music had started, food was ready, people were arriving, and the festival had begun.



The buzz of what was to be a successful event started to pick up as children and adults moved around the site to explore what was on offer. There was a lot for them to see!

Twice the Space!

Two performance stages allowed space for both performers and dance classes.

Main stage performances featured the Boury Academy, African drumming and dancing by Wuntanara, 6 musicians from the Brixton Chamber Orchestra and the colourful Samba de Rainha dancers, interspersed with tunes from DJ Soul Provyder.



In the centre of the field, the Punch and Judy puppet shows were as entertaining as ever. The shrieks and laughter of children, and no doubt of a few enthusiastic adults, echoed across the field for all their 3 shows.



The second stage offered lively dance workshops – street dancing by two dancers from Rambert and Samba lessons from Michela di Felice. Children and adults tested out their dance moves and learnt new steps under the skilful direction of the experts.

Richard, The Didgeridoo Gangster, gave 2 performances providing, for some audience members, a first experience of the unique sight and sounds of didgeridoo.



Fun for All!

Around the site, workshop sessions included flower crown making (using fresh flowers collected from Covent Garden early in the morning by Giovanni, pictured below), nature drawing and activities, plastic flower creations (all from recycled plastic naturally!) and a wide range of activities from Trees for Cities and Bee Urban, our park-based colleagues. All the workshops were popular, and children waited patiently to take part.



Organised, although occasionally rather chaotic, queuing was a feature of the children's activity area. Decorated with colourful balloon and bunting, it included the puppet show, face painting and a variety of games. Tin Can Alley proved extremely popular as did the Limbo poles. Some interesting techniques were adopted by smaller children in particular at the 2 Hoopla games.



The Lambeth Health and Wellness Bus was on site along with other Lambeth Council wellness services. Southwark and City & Guilds Art Colleges, Durning Library and Brixton Windmill also took part with information and displays. A wide selection of food providers, alongside the always popular Mr Whippy, occupied a corner of the field.

Using a slightly different layout to last year, extra space was made available more local traders to take part, offering crafts, books, and products for humans and dogs.

St John's Ambulance and a volunteer security team were on site helping to keep everybody safe and well.



The End of the Day

As 6pm approached, activity levels began to drop slightly as performances came to an end, food stalls began to run out of food, and festival contributors began to think about the deadline to leave the park. Thanks to all the traders for their speedy departure and once again thanks to the volunteers for helping dismantle everything in super quick time.

With our organising partner Melanin Health & Wellness, we'd like to express thanks to everybody who took part. Also to the sponsors, Berkeley Homes, Kings Health Partners and Thriving North Lambeth, Marsh and Parsons, Southwark College and Iconic Media. Thanks also to the FoKP membership whose contributions helped FoKP to support this and many other events in the park. And finally, thanks to Lambeth Landscapes for all their help, particularly to Reece whose support throughout the day made everything go smoothly.

Festival 2024

This year we turned away a number of traders and exhibitors despite creating more space than in 2022.

On the day and since the event we have been approached by others keen to be involved, so 2024 is already looking promising!

Thanks to everybody involved for their support this year.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer.

The Organising Team