

50
1975-2025



JACKSONS LANE

ANNUAL REVIEW

2024-25



WELCOME

2025 marks Jacksons Lane's 50th Anniversary, and a significant milestone in the centre's history. Our year-long celebrations will include heritage projects, a dynamic artistic programme, the development of a new permanent archive, the completion of restoration works on our building and of course a big community Birthday Party.

One of our key founders, the inspirational Nicky Gavron, sadly passed away last summer. We will celebrate her legacy and dedication of all of those involved in the earliest days of Jacksons Lane across our 50th year.

This year has helped cement our commitment to our local and international communities, and we have been proud to support and showcase artists from 18 different countries, and to welcome audiences from as far as Sweden and Japan, all while growing our reach across our local communities in Haringey, Highgate and Barnet.

Christmas saw our biggest and most successful production in our history with a special commission as part of the 80th Anniversary of the Moomin stories. *Christmas Comes to Moominvalley*, a circus retelling of Tove Jansson's beloved book *The Fir Tree*, delighted audiences young and old, and we are excited to see the show return this Christmas.

Our exceptional Youth Circus has gone from strength to strength, showcasing original performances in Haringey Youth Festival, as warm-up acts for professional circus companies and at the Royal Albert Hall, while our newly recruited Young Heritage Producers have delved into our history and will be sharing their creative responses over the coming year.

Community has always been at the heart of Jacksons Lane, and over 180 dedicated volunteers have this year helped deliver our programmes, from our community Christmas Day, to supporting workshops for young people and older adults, to helping to sort and catalogue our archive. We are so grateful for their time, energy and generosity.

We are so thankful for the invaluable support from our community. We hope we will be able to celebrate with all of you in the year ahead.

Adrian Berry
Artistic Director & Joint CEO

Hannah Cox
Executive Director & Joint CEO



JACKSONS LANE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

2025 will mark Jacksons Lane's 50th Anniversary and a milestone moment in the evolution of our organisation. We were delighted to receive a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to support our celebrations which include the development of a new permanent Archive and Oral History collection, developed in partnership with Bruce Castle Museum & Archive, participatory programmes for older adults, schools and young people across our community and the completion of key building restoration works throughout 2025.

We are excited to platform and share the stories of our unique history and hope our communities will contribute their own stories through our Memory Collection project. Our Artistic programme will celebrate Jacksons Lane past and present with a dynamic line-up of exceptional contemporary circus and returning artists bringing spoken word, theatre and comedy to our stage.

As we write this the first catalogued boxes of archive material are making their way to their new permanent home in Bruce Castle Museum & Archive and we are preparing for our Birthday Party weekend which will celebrate Jacksons Lane past and present through pop up performances, heritage activities, a community stage and a fantastic Birthday Cabaret.

There is much to look forward to in the year ahead and we hope you will join us in our celebrations.

"I moved to the top of Jacksons Lane when this was just a derelict church - there was great excitement in the street the day it opened. My daughter was three years old and so thrilled to be one of the first people through the door. I did dance and exercise classes here - it was a wonderful social idea then, and it still is."

Cecily, participant of Jacksons Lane's older adults programme

Alice Maia. Photo by Josie Jones



**“STAGGERING, THOUGHT-PROVOKING
AND MEMORABLE.”**

**Audience member on Tilly-Lee Kronicks’s
*Handful of Nothing***

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Jacksons Lane’s artistic programme continued its focus on high quality, diverse contemporary circus and visual theatre, this year also bringing new cabaret and spoken word into the theatre from UK and international artists.

Our first time as a venue for the London Clown Festival saw visits from 6 artists and companies new to Jacksons Lane with an eclectic mix of comedy and physical theatre from around the world, and we hosted Edinburgh previews including performance artist Louise Orwin and New Zealand’s Trygve Wakenshaw.

David Glass Ensemble brought a cast of 25 from East 15 Drama school for a week of *Requiem for Change*, a visual spectacular based on Naomi Klein’s acclaimed book. *The Black Burlesque Festival* saw two sold out nights with 40 amazing artists performing, whilst our co-production with Tilly Lee Kronick *Handful of Nothing* saw the only London date play to an enraptured crowd.

There were first-time visits with sell-out performances from Kook Ensemble with juggling clown Tom Gaskin returning to our stage with *Filibuster* and cabaret artist Sarah-Louise Young with the worldwide hit *An Evening Without Kate Bush*. We welcomed new spoken word performances from Brighton artists Rosy Carrick with the comedic *Musclebound* and Naomi Wood with the tantalising circus-poetry hybrid *Gobbess*.

We helped grow our national circus sector supporting 16 new touring works that played to 30 cities in England, from Manchester to Cambridge as well as 8 productions at the Edinburgh Fringe that had received our support across 6 venues in the largest arts festival in the world.

36 CIRCUS & THEATRE
PRODUCTIONS HOSTED

48 TOTAL
PERFORMANCES

16 TOURING PRODUCTIONS
SUPPORTED

9,341 TICKETS SOLD

78% AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE



“EXCELLENT. JACKSONS LANE CLEARLY FELT INVESTED IN SUPPORTING US: THEY WERE KIND, GRACIOUS AND HELPFUL TO EVERYONE IN OUR TEAM”

Scarabeus

Duane Nasis. Photo by Corinne Cumming

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

Our work across the national circus sector has been as impactful as always, helping to grow and develop some of the best work in contemporary circus and visual performance. By supporting and brokering new touring works, hosting residencies, and work-in-progress sharings throughout the year we supported 128 artists.

Our Transmission series in Summer 2024 platformed exciting new work in development and residencies from 4 companies and we hosted a further 33 artists through our Associate Artist Scratch & Cabaret Nights.

Our Scratch season saw performances of 5 work-in-progresses from such companies as Hikapee with the family show *Not Today*, the educative and fascinating *Space Junk* from new company Hours and a new work created using AI *Open Beta* from Chivaree Circus – a glimpse into the future for our audiences.

We hosted 25 young circus students from The National Centre for Circus Arts with the 2nd Year devised performances to sold out crowds over two nights, the artists of tomorrow showing astonishing skills on our stage.

Our partnership with Bristol Circus City and 8 partner organisations *New Authors* saw Jacksons Lane commission and support two projects in our studios which we will collaboratively develop next year towards full performances.

As part of our Artist Development work we provided 1820 hours of free space to 78 artists, and hosted 12 work in progress and scratch performances.

1,820 HOURS OF SUPPORT

1,020 ATTENDANCE FOR SHARINGS

12 SHARINGS

128 ARTISTS SUPPORTED

The Nordic Council *Happy Hour*.
Photo by Cosmin Cirstea



**“MESMERISING
AND HYPNOTIC”**

**Audience member on
How A Spiral Works
by Art For Rainy Days**

WORKING INTERNATIONALLY

This year saw Jacksons Lane host and support artists from Sweden, Iceland, Finland, Holland, Estonia, Germany, Spain, New Zealand, Norway, Japan, Australia, Turkey, Belgium, Brazil and Lithuania.

Moomin Characters in Finland commissioned us to produce a circus adaptation of the classic Tove Jansson tale *The Fir Tree. Christmas Comes to Moominvalley* was part of their 80th anniversary - a truly global attraction with audiences travelling from as far as Sweden and Japan.

We had representation at circus festivals and showcases in Rotterdam, Helsinki and Belgium, as well as a producing collaboration entitled *With* alongside venues and producers from Germany, Sweden, France, Denmark, Finland and Norway, supporting new Finnish work to be produced and tour globally.

We welcomed 4 productions in partnership with our funders The Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, and began our new Baltic partnership with visits and residencies from Lithuania's Teatronis and Art For Rainy Days. New partnerships were developed for the future with the embassies of Canada and Taiwan.

48 INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS
PRESENTED & SUPPORTED

13 INTERNATIONAL
PERFORMANCES

1,821 AUDIENCE
MEMBERS

Christmas Comes to Moominvalley. Photo by Alex Walton



“CHILDREN WERE OPEN-MOUTHED. THEY EFFORTLESSLY ACHIEVE EXTRAORDINARY FEATS AND HAVE THE AUDIENCE GASPING IN DELIGHT”

★★★★ Everything Theatre on *Christmas Comes to Moominvalley*

THEATRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Our work for younger audiences continued to thrive with weekend, half term and Christmas productions on our stage. Our biggest and most successful production in our history was a commission from Moomin Characters in Finland – *Christmas Comes to Moominvalley* which sold 80% of capacity, attracted great local, national and international reviews and played to 7800 people.

Our home-grown *Circus Cabaret for Kids* in half term was a huge hit with 98% attendances of 10 performances, and we supported local company Foan and Fortune with their debut show *Mess*. We also welcomed back Trash Test Dummies from Australia and ten other companies as part of national tours, including our work with the House South East touring network.

We welcomed visits from City of London Symphonia and USA company Soap and Rope with sold out immersive shows for babies, our newest and smallest audience members.

We returned to Fair in the Square, a much-loved local festival reaching over 10,000 people, where we programmed our own stage for the first time, with family performances from circus artists and free workshops for the community.

Our Pay It Forward scheme ensured 850 Haringey residents could attend world class theatre and circus performances for free, something very important and dear to our heart – giving access to those who may not be able to attend our performances normally.

15 TOTAL PRODUCTIONS

97 FAMILY WEEKEND & HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

48 ARTISTS PRESENTED

11,865 AUDIENCE MEMBERS

850 TOTAL FREE TICKETS



Christmas Comes to Moominvalley. Photos by Alex Walton

Youth Circus Showcase. Photo by Alex Brenner



“AMAZING TO SEE THE CONFIDENCE AND ENJOYMENT OF EACH CHILD ON STAGE. PLEASE NEVER STOP. PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR HARD WORK. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE FROM TEACHERS TO VOLUNTEERS, YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!” Parent of Participant

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: YOUNG PEOPLE

Now in its twelfth year, our Youth Circus Programme continues to enhance skill development, resilience, confidence and the making of long-lasting friendships for young people aged 4 to 18 across Haringey. In addition, our youth circus programme in Barnet, developed in partnership with OneStonegrove and the John Lyon’s Charity, and now in its second year, continues to grow strong.

The hard work of our young participants across both programmes culminated in a dynamic showcase performance on the professional circus stage, here at Jacksons Lane, themed around our 50th anniversary and our unique history. Our Youth Board took a lead role in devising the showcase, and it was performed with great success to a packed audience of friends, family and community members.

Across the year we have also offered opportunities to develop new circus skills and connect with other youth circus groups nationwide through our partnership with National Centre for Circus Arts, and trips to see professional circus artists in action including Cirque du Soleil and our very own Christmas production, *Christmas Comes to Moominvalley*.

Youth Voice sits at the heart of our methodology, with participants gaining increased ownership across the programme, in particular through our energised Youth Board. Led by our participants we have provided new performance opportunities, including performing original acts at Haringey Youth Festival, as an opening act for professional circus company Revel Puck Circus and performing at the Royal Albert Hall as part of Haringey Music Service’s showcase.

We continue to collaborate on local initiatives, working with the Haringey GP Federation to provide weekly fitness classes as part of the Children Weight Management Programme, as well as collaborating with Haringey’s Youth Service Mobile Hub, to provide engagement activities in and around Wood Green.

273 YOUNG PEOPLE

342 PARTICIPANTS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

9 YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS

3,496 PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Circus Showcase. Photo by Alex Brenner

“THE CIRCUS IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN A FANTASTIC ADDITION TO OUR STUDENTS LEARNING EXPERIENCE AT ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL. NOT ONLY HAVE THEY LEARNED A RANGE OF CIRCUS SKILLS, BUT IT HAS ALSO HELPED THEM BUILD PERSEVERANCE, IMPROVE FOCUS, AND EXPLORE CREATIVE WAYS TO STAY ACTIVE - ALL WHILE HAVING A LOT OF FUN. THE PROJECT WILL LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY IN OUR SCHOOL, AS JACKSONS LANE WILL BE TRAINING OUR PUPILS AND STAFF TO LEAD WORKSHOPS, ALONG WITH PROVIDING US WITH EQUIPMENT”

**Cheryl Rosen, Deputy Head
St Thomas More Catholic School**

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: SCHOOLS

We are incredibly proud to be a lead partner on Haringey Creates, the Cultural Education Partnership for Haringey and its 'Creative and Cultural Pathways for Haringey' programme, fostering creative careers, school partnerships, and professional development in education.

Thanks to the generous support of two donors we have started a 5-year collaboration with Grafton Primary School. This year the whole-school joined a circus skills day led by professional artists and culminating in a school-wide performance. We continued our Circus in Schools programme with support from Go! London, offering circus, wellbeing, and employability skills at Alexandra Primary, The Grove School, and Footsteps Academy. This initiative creates lasting impact by supplying equipment, providing teacher training and filmed resources, and further embedding school partnerships within our work.

We are committed to supporting future creatives and providing experiences and opportunities which will create pathways into the creative industries. This year we provided week-long placements to students from The Archer Academy, Highgate Wood, Park View, and Alexandra Park schools. We also offered volunteering opportunities, career-focused talks, and workshops to schools across Haringey and our local area. Additionally, we participated in careers events at The Grove, Fortismere, and Lancasterian Primary, opening up the creative industries and providing advice and guidance to students.

We have been delighted to see a number of young people progress through these experiences to join our holiday projects as paid assistants, gaining invaluable first-hand experience in the creative sector. Through these efforts, we will help shape the next generation of cultural leaders, ensuring accessible opportunities are available to young people across Haringey.

13 SCHOOLS

851 PARTICIPANTS

1,756 PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES



**"I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN AGES.
I FEEL LIKE I'M BACK IN THE PLAYGROUND"**

Participant

Photo by Suzanne Plunkett

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: OLDER ADULTS

Our much-loved older adults programme *Feeling Good* provides a welcoming and accessible space for connection and creativity. Research has shown that regular access to creative engagement offers a powerful remedy to social isolation, a challenge particularly faced by older communities in Haringey, and we use an exciting mix of performance, creative and wellbeing activities to nourish and empower our participants.

Through our *Social Lunch* and *Broadway Brunch* programmes we feature dazzling performances alongside a hot meal, both at Jacksons Lane and within supported housing communities across Haringey. Over the past year, 100 residents at 10 locations have joined the brunches to listen to each other's poetry, eat nutritious comfort food and watch as magicians and drag queens grace the stage. A new partnership with Headway East London provides a new monthly food-based workshop with our combined communities, with kimchi, dukkah and jerk marinades just some of the treats whipped up and taken home by participants at the end of the day.

This year has seen the development of new offers such as *Circus with Friends*, a programme led by professional circus artists and designed for older adults, which includes circus activities like juggling and spinning plates, tailored for individual access needs.

Our weekly shared reading workshop sees participants engage with short stories and poems in a group setting. These sessions encourage open discussion and reflection, and together the group has delved into over 100 works of literature this year.

205 PARTICIPANTS

95 SESSIONS

791 OPPORTUNITIES

Our participants report improved mood and coordination, and a greater sense of community and connection. Our partnerships with Reach & Connect, Haringey Housing and Regeneration (who support 1400 residents across the borough), and the NHS have enabled us to reach new communities and individuals, and our anniversary year will provide opportunities for new creative and heritage activities.

"WE HAVE BEEN MAKING MUSIC FOR JACKSONS LANE AT CHRISTMAS FOR 33 YEARS OR MORE. OUR MUM FIRST BROUGHT US, NOW THE NEXT GENERATION IS JOINING IN! IT IS THE MOST SPECIAL THING, THE REAL SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS, AND WE HOPE TO KEEP COMING FOR YEARS TO COME."

Solomon/ Williams/ Reid family of musicians

Photo by Hannah McKay



CHRISTMAS DAY AT JACKSONS LANE

For half a century, Jacksons Lane has been the beating heart of community care in Haringey, and nowhere is this more evident than in our Christmas Day project. Since 1975 this initiative has ensured that hundreds of older adults in Haringey and North London are supported during the festive period. In a world where isolation can be particularly acute for older generations, Christmas Day at Jacksons Lane is a celebration of connection, compassion and joy.

This year, our dedicated staff and 171 volunteers worked tirelessly to open Jacksons Lane's doors for the 50th time on December 25th, to help bring joy to 304 older adults who might otherwise spend the day in solitude. Through 204 festive hamper deliveries and 100 invitations to our vibrant in-person event, Christmas Day provided food, warmth and community.

In order to make this vital event happen we are reliant on the generosity of our community. We were delighted this year to be supported by 10 local businesses and to raise £30,468.39 through the Big Give Christmas match funding challenge as well as from trusts and foundations, website donations and bucket collections.

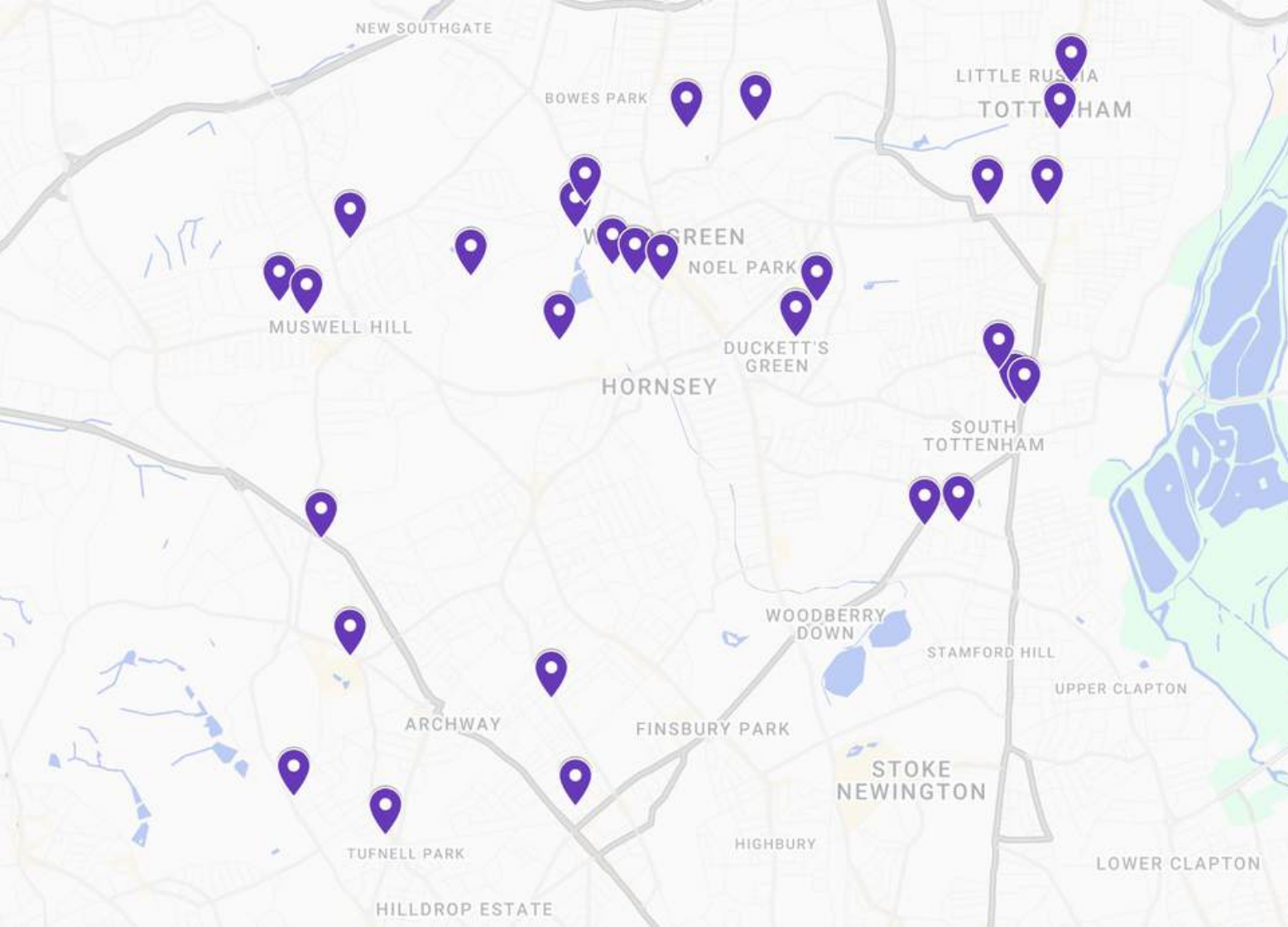
We are grateful to our business supporters: Wenzel's, Rushtons Greengrocers, Morrisons Wood Green, The Boogaloo, Dayla, Beaver Town, Pines and Needles, Highgate School and Haringey Shed.

We would also like to extend special thanks to Collectiv Foods who donated enough turkey, pigs in blankets, potatoes, carrots and vegetarian options to provide 380 meals for guests, hampers and volunteers, and to The Good Reader pub in Crouch End who cooked all the food for the event.

304 PARTICIPANTS

171 VOLUNTEERS

848 HOURS WORKED BY VOLUNTEERS



A COMMUNITY HUB FOR HARINGEY

We are committed to our role as a community and cultural hub for the whole of Haringey with over 100 young people taking part in our programmes offsite every week. This year we worked in 18 external venues across Haringey including schools, community spaces and supported housing schemes, while at Jacksons Lane we hosted over 50 weekly classes for the local community, and delivered 96 free events for older adults as part of our creative engagement programmes.

We have continued to provide a Warm Welcome over the winter months and through our Wall of Kindness this year provided over 100 free hot drinks and food items to those impacted by the cost of living crisis. We would like to thank the Sureserve Foundation for supporting this initiative.

This year has seen an exciting increase in our volunteers and we now work with over 180 dedicated community members who support on our community Christmas day, youth programmes, and more recently the development of our Archive.

Our reach and impact is only made possible through our inspiring partnerships with Haringey organisations who support us to connect, collaborate and empower our communities. This year our partners included: Sky City Community Centre & Metropolitan Thames Valley, Collage Arts, Haringey Shed, Haringey Creates, Tottenham Green Pools & Fitness, Triangle Children, Young People & Community Centre, Haringey Council Housing and Regeneration, Haringey Youth Service, Haringey GP Federation, Haringey Music Service, Revel Pucks Circus, Harris Academy Coleraine Park, OneStonegrove, Headway East London, Alexandra Primary School, The Grove School, Footsteps Academy, Fortismere School and Lancasterian Primary School.

Jacksons Lane's Bug Hotel



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental impact continues to be a key organisational focus as we monitor and reduce the impact we have on the local environment. The completion of our LED lighting retrofit in our Theatre has enabled us to reduce our energy consumption and to share learnings and process with partners and local groups. This work has been gratefully funded by Haringey Carbon Community Fund and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

This year we partnered with children from Into the Woods Nursery to build a bug hotel, worked with students from Highgate School to explore environmental impact in theatre spaces and have continued to centre sustainability within our business model.

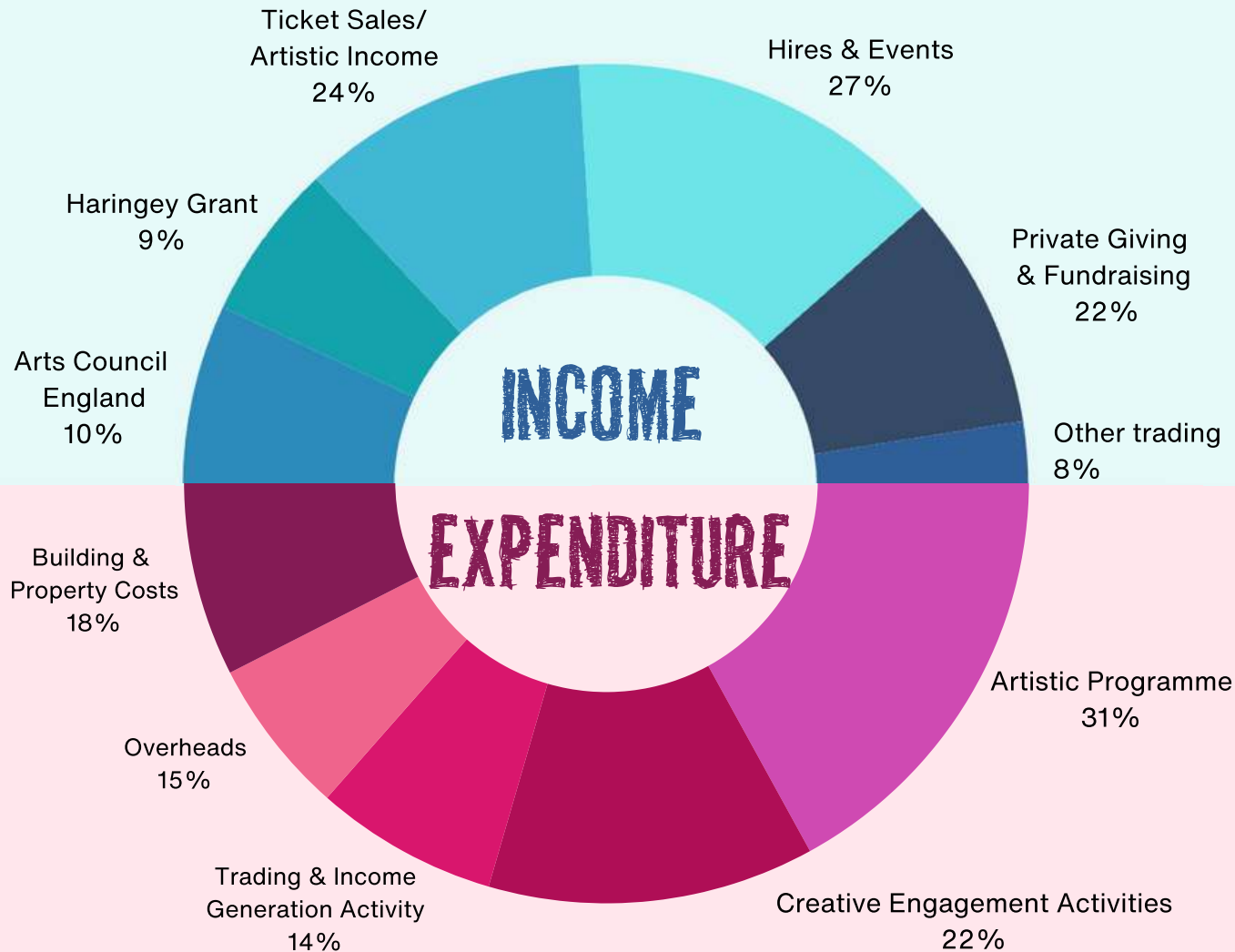
Our Head of Operations has become Carbon Literacy certified this year enabling us to better understand the carbon footprint of our building and organisation and we continue to work with Julie's Bicycle on our annual sustainability reporting.

In 2024/25 we continued to recycle over 51% of all waste and continue to commit to having a zero to landfill policy. Our DEC operational rating has improved from 49 B to 42 B.

51% OF ALL WASTE WAS RECYCLED

0 WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A ZERO TO LANDFILL POLICY

11.8 TONNES OF CARBON AVOIDED



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & ECONOMIC IMPACT

We continue to navigate the challenging economic environment, exploring new income streams and refining our business model. This year our Hires department has continued to grow with new opportunities to work with west end companies, the BBC and independent film crews, as well as our important relationships with our local professional community, who use the building on a weekly basis to deliver 51 varied classes. Our Theatre continues to be well used by both visiting professional companies such as Hampstead Garden Opera, as well as local schools and amateur groups. Jacksons Lane remains a valued space to celebrate important milestones and this year we hosted 111 birthdays and 63 private events.

Our collaboration with Moomin Characters in creating *Christmas Comes to Moominvalley* saw 7800 audience members attend, of which 71% were new to Jacksons Lane, and became our most successful production in our history. We are delighted to build upon the show's success and share this special production with more of our community when it returns for Christmas 2025.

We were delighted to received £206K from The National Lottery Heritage Fund which will under pin our 50 Anniversary activities this year including a vibrant programme of community and artistic projects, and the completion of vital restoration works, ensuring our building is fit to serve our communities for the next 50 years.

37% INCREASE IN HOURS BOOKED FOR PRIVATE EVENTS

51 TOTAL NUMBER OF CLASSES & COURSES

28% INCREASE IN TOTAL SESSIONS

JACKSONS LANE IN NUMBERS

83K PEOPLE ENGAGED

1.2K FREE TICKETS

22.8K AUDIENCE MEMBERS

851 YOUNG PEOPLE

51 WEEKLY CLASSES AND COURSES

41 PARTNERSHIPS

264 ARTISTS

304 OLDER ADULTS

200+ VOLUNTEERS

18 VENUES ACROSS HARINGEY

18 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

25% TICKETS SOLD TO HARINGEY RESIDENTS

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2024-25



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Big Give
Cyril and Eve Jumbo Trust
Haringey Carbon Community Fund
Haringey Creates
Hiscox Foundation
Hornsey Parochial Charities
John Lyon's Charity
Lady Gould's Charity
Moomins Characters
The Boogaloo
The Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland
The George Michael Estate
The Go! London Fund
The Jack Petchey Foundation
The National Lottery Community Fund
The National Lottery Heritage Fund
The Reed Foundation
The Sureserve Foundation
Tottenham Grammer School Foundation
Urban Frontiers Foundation
Wates Foundation
And those who wish to remain anonymous

Artistic Partners in 2024-25

Circomedia
Circus City Bristol
Circuscentrum - Belgium
Circusstad - Holland
Cirko - Finland
Cluster Arts - Australia
Epicirq - Estonia
Future Arts Centres
Highgate Fair In the Square
HOUSE Southeast network
Lakeside Arts
National Centre for Circus Arts
Perplx Festival - Belgium
Sirkus and Dance Info - Finland
Split Second
Teatronis - Lithuania
TENT - Holland Circus
The London Clown Festival
The Lowry Theatre
Worthing Theatres

Cover: Youth Programme
Photo by Alex Brenner

Back: The Nordic Council
Happy Hour
Photo by Cosmin Cirstea

SUPPORT OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

Support today and help us to continue our work and uphold our commitments for the next 50 years, including:

- For Children and Young People: Free arts activities for 300 children every week, and free tickets for 1,000 children every year
- For Older Community Members: Social opportunities and support for 200 older adults a month, and a free festive celebration for 300 older adults every Christmas
- For Emerging Artists: Rehearsal space, performance opportunities and employment for 200 young artists each year
- For Circus and Performing Arts Lovers: From circus and theatre to music and family events, we will deliver 200 exceptional world-class performances every year to our community



**DONATE NOW AND
BECOME PART OF
OUR LEGACY**

