

EDINBURGH

MEELA★

Kidzone 2015



Report

14th December 2015

CREATIVE
Art
WORKS

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The following sets were created for the event:

- Elephant/Monkey Gateway
- Giant movable puppets of the Indian Monkey God Hanuman and Chinese Monkey King Sun Wukong
- Banana Tree Prop
- Storytelling Boat
- Miscellaneous Signposting , wooden country flags and other Kidzone signage

Spaces within the event comprised of the following marquees and shelters:

Craft Marquees

- **China** (6m x 3m space)
- **South Africa** (6m x3m space)
- **Nepal** (6m x 3m space)
- **India** (6m x 3m space)

Activity Stalls

- **Entry marquee** (6m x 3m space)
- **Forestry Commission Scotland, FCS** (6m x 3m space)
- **The Conservation Volunteers, TCV** (6m x 3m space)
- **Himalayan Centre for Arts & Culture** (6m x 3m space)
- **Leith Community Croft** (3m x 3m space)
- **Scottish National Trust Rangers, NTS** (8m x 4m space)
- **Woodland Trust, WT** (3m x 3m space)
- **Under 5's** (3m x 3m space)
- **Glitter Tattoos** (3m x 3m space)
- **See Play Read Bus** (6m x 3m space)
- **Henna hand painting Umbrella** (3m x 3m space)



“This place is great for the kids. We all love coming here. We come to this Kidszone every year. It’s the main reason we come to the Mela”



1. Introduction

This year the two day Edinburgh Mela Festival 2015 took place in Leith Links on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August.

The Kidzone event was called “Go Bananas”. This year’s emphasis was on fun, dance and action with a creative exploration of monkey gods, other animal gods across the World and art activities.

In keeping with the spirit of the Mela the event was designed to encourage children and their families to get “hands on” and explore all the celebratory, artistic and cultural activities on offer.

This Kidzone layout was similar to the previous year and incorporated a number of individual spaces, with different multi-sensory activities and experiences aimed specifically at children aged between 5 and 11 years and their families. All areas were highly interactive and full of opportunities for children and adults to relax, participate and learn together. Some explored environmental themes and issues, while others used natural and organic materials to create artwork, whilst others were inspired by nature.

There was also a programme of activities specifically targeted at Under 5’s.

“Absolutely perfectly pitched for kids of all ages. Excellent”



Performance Spaces

- **Workshop Tent** (9m x 6m space)
- **Main Performance Area** (6m x 6m space)
- **Storytelling Boat** (11m x 2m boat)

Admin and Infrastructure

- **Changing Room Area** (6m x 3m space)
- **Staff Storage marquee** (3m x 3m space)
- **Mela Umbrellas x 3** (3m x 3m space)
- **Entry and Exit Umbrella**

On entry to the Kidzone area all children were handed a “**Mela Monkey Pass**” and given instructions about how to enjoy the journey ahead. The children were encouraged to wear their pass as they moved around the site. Families were invited to colour in the illustrations on their pass and spaces were included to allow the children to collect “**Banana**” stickers at each activity, receiving a “**Top Banana**” sticker at the final event. This gave incentive to visit all the areas in the Kidzone.

“**Mela Monkey Pass**” also acted as a “sign up” to the event activity, helping to “acclimatise” participants and focus them on the “exploration ahead”.

On leaving the event participants were encouraged to visit the “**Banana Tree**”, an activity encouraging children and adults to work together. The focus was on environmental awareness. Promises were added to a banana tree prop.

On exiting the **Kidzone** volunteers encouraged children and adults to add feedback through a child friendly “**happy monkey, unhappy monkey**” evaluation device.

Joanna Boyce of Creative Art Works was once again contracted as an Associate Programmer to manage the 2015 Kidzone, however this year there was some re-definition of her role with much of the administration being delivered in-house by the Mela’s General Manager. This required close communication with the Mela Office team regarding participant contracts, agreement documents, programme content and staff invoices. The key elements of the new post were as follows:

- To organize specific aspects of the programme focused towards a children and family audience.
- Liaise as required with FCS sponsors, the Edinburgh Mela’s Director, General Manager, Artist Liaison, Engagement Officer and Production Manager.
- Develop strategic partnerships to enable the programme to be delivered.
- Be the key contact with Kidzone staff and participating organisations.
- To oversee the making of props and décor within the Kidzone.
- Create a meaningful journey for children and families at the festival.
- To manage Go Bananas Kidzone at the Mela weekend event.
- Get out and inventory compilation.



2. Aims and Objectives of the Event

- To create a safe, structured and stimulating environment containing a comprehensive and exciting range of activities for children and their families.
- To continue the development of an interactive multi-sensory approach within a context of inter-cultural exchange.
- To work with a diverse team of arts specialists.
- To give children opportunities to meet people from many different cultures and countries and to experience different customs, traditions and art forms first hand.
- To stimulate curiosity and interest in the arts, nature and the world.
- To work closely with the Edinburgh Mela Production and Technical teams to create and install the Kidzone area.
- To work closely with partners such as Forestry Commission Scotland and local service providers to find creative and imaginative ways to engage with children and their families in the delivery of their themes and remits.



“I don’t want to be melodramatic but this is the best day ever!!!”



3. Event Summary

The Storytelling Boat

Sponsorship from FCS transformed the Kidzone Storytelling boat into an Interactive performance stage, with an FCS branded sail.

Three actors, wearing animal headdresses (including those created for FCS funded Way of the Woods Project – Hermitage of Braid 2012 and Craigmillar Woods 2014) delivered interactive performances containing forest friendly messages inspired by FCS remits.

On the Friday before the Mela weekend rehearsals took place beneath the trees on Leith Links.

Throughout the weekend the actor/storytellers performed 20-minute sets, introducing 5 iconic Scottish woodland animals all either extinct, endangered or protected. Caledonian Bear, Grey Wolf, Red Squirrel, Scottish Wildcat and Golden Eagle.

Children were welcomed onboard the boat as a prospective crew on a voyage.

Each animal was in charge of a different aspect of the journey and this led to an activity or a story, which illustrated messages in accordance with FCS engagement strategies.

In true Mela spirit and in accordance with the Kidzone theme, the stories of 5 Scottish animals were given a global dimension when they came across Sun Wukong, the Chinese Monkey God, representing the spirit of the untamed wild with his magic woodland wishing staff.

Through guided visualisations, inspiring stories and relevant messages the animal characters encouraged children and their families to use their imagination and to visit the woodlands to enjoy nature, take exercise and relax and play among trees. The actors opened discussion and provoked the audience to give examples of ways we can all enjoy the great outdoors and be responsible active citizens who respect wildlife and take stewardship of local woodlands. FCS staff on site gave out information detailing how families can to access their local woodlands.

The boat performances were interspersed with dance workshops led by Charan Pradhan from Dance Namaste. Dressed as Hanuman the Hindu Monkey God, he created a carnival atmosphere by getting everyone up and dancing.

At the end of each day the 5 Scottish animals joined forces with both the Chinese and the Hindu Monkey Gods, culminating in a Bollywood style finale with everyone on site invited to process and dance together.

The actors and dancer were all experienced performers used to interacting with children and leading groups of kids.

“Families seemed to have a great time. Lots of happy people. When asked which was their favourite... many families, said all of it”



Drop In Craft Activities

Hanuman Monkey Masks and Pendants

There were three levels of masks to make accommodating all ages and abilities from under 5's to teenagers. These ranged from “Easy Peasy” to “Monkey Madness!”

Woodland Animals

FCS Rangers and outreach workers worked with families making jointed wooden animals using pre-cut bark and wood pieces and wooden pegs.

African Craft

Hands-on activity delivered by BE United and artists from local Edinburgh African communities. African animal themed face-painting, hair braiding and making hand print monkey cards.

Traditional Chinese Knotting Craft

Nature inspired Chinese knotting under guidance from Malaysian and Chinese teachers. Using the basic flat knot technique they created Sun Kuwong Monkey God Talismans.

Nature Inspired Craft

Lichen decorated sunglasses and twig wall hangings (TCV). Stitching leaf bowls using splinters of bamboo threaded through laurel leaves (NSA). Magic wands using sticks woven with coloured wool (Woodland Trust) Making butterflies (TCV).

Henna Hand Painting

Facilitated by both Nila Joshi and students from Dunfermline High school.

Hindu Animal God models

Crafts people from the Edinburgh Nepalese Community encouraged families to make models inspired by Hindu Monkey gods, using naturally dyed salt dough into pre-made mould of 5 different animal gods. Imagery and info about each god decorated their stall. (See appendix 2).

Drop in Music/Dance Activities

Interactive games songs and stories

by See Play Read.

Senegalese Drumming

with Samba Sene and Guimba Diallo.



“Scores and scores of happy children fixated on the performers. Hats off to you all...”





African Song
by BE United.

Bollywood Dance
by Charan Pradhan of Dance Namaste dressed as Hanuman the Monkey and also student volunteers from Dunfermline High School.

Family Hip Hop
by Lisa McCleod of Step in Up Dance.

Melody & Harmony Indian and Scottish folk fusion
Indian and Scottish folk fusion by Sunita Violina Sahakriya.

Indian Folk Dance
by Nila Joshi and team.

Indian Dance Family workshop
by Dance Ihayami.

Drop in Activities for Under 5's

In addition to all the zones having the above activities that under 5's could partake in, Play Talk Read Targeted under 5's with "messy play" which involved creating a hand print rainbow using puffy paint, made from flour, salt, food coloring and water. Younger kids and their families could also create parrots and monkeys, using card, feathers and crepe paper.

Other Drop in Nature Exploration Activities

Glitter Tattoos
A team of Pakistani artists worked non-stop throughout the day providing a colourful array of glitter tattoo templates all with a nature theme.

Nature under the microscope
TCV Volunteers oversaw this activity with 4 microscopes on site along with a collection of organic material from woodland, field and hedgerow.

Nature Detective Work
Studying mini bugs under magnifying glasses including "beasts" such as Pseudo Scorpions (they look exactly like tiny scorpions but without the stinging tail). Facilitated by NTS Rangers.

"The performances on the boat this year have been exceptional!! My children and my neighbour's children are enthralled by them. The actors have this rare quality of being able to animate big groups of children while at the same time being able to focus on individuals – making each child feel important"



Also Mini beat hunts in trays of dried leaves – run by the Woodland Trust.

Local History Activity
Historical "dressing up" play included helmets, chain mail, swords and shield - with a photo booth.

Environmental Nature Play
Bee beanbag throwing (NTS).
Banana Tree activity (HCAC).

Arena Programme

Kuk-Sool-Won Martial Arts Team
Workshops introducing the traditional martial art of "Kuk Sool Won" was delivered by a multi generational team for all the family. Teachers dressed in giant panda and tiger costumes helped to link the activity to the Monkey theme. With a focus on self-discipline and respect, the drop-in workshops included traditional Asian fighting arts and techniques for body conditioning, as well as mental development and traditional weapons training. Children were inspired and motivated in all areas of health and fitness.

BE United - Dance and Drums
Musicians from Senegal and Gambia delivered highly popular African Drumming and song workshops through out the day.

Social inclusion provision

FCS funding allowed for the provision of two British Sign Language Interpreters within the Kidzone throughout Saturday. This was much appreciated by several deaf families and the Deaf Action Youth Group, who were welcomed on site to enjoy a BSL tour around the Kidzone focusing especially on The Story Telling Boat and the other FCS activities.



"This area is perfect for Young and old – monkey Gods, mini beasts, Bollywood, trees to plant, songs to sing – an amazing boat and lots of arts and craft"



The Storytelling Boat Programme

Saturday 29th August

Interactive Boat

12noon - 12:30pm	Introducing Sun Wukong The irrepressible Chinese Monkey-King and his magic Wishing Staff	
12:30 - 1:00pm	Sun Wukong Meets Caledonian Bear	
1:00 - 1:30pm	Introducing Hanuman* Mighty Hindu Monkey-God, master of music & expert in dance	
1:30 - 2:00pm	Sun Wukong Meets Grey Wolf*	
2:00 - 2:30 pm	Hanuman Moves* With his Singing ball	
2:30 - 3:00pm	Sun Wukong Meets Red Squirrel*	
3:00 - 3:30pm	Break	
3:30 - 4:00pm	Dance With Hanuman*	
4:00 - 4.30pm	Sun Wukong Meets Scottish Wildcat*	
4:30 - 5:00pm	Hanuman Moves* With his Singing ball	
5:00 - 5:30pm	Sun Wukong Meets Eagle	
5:30 - 6:00pm	Spirit Of The Wild Finale With Hanuman & Sun Wukong	

*FCS pleased to Created

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*FCS pleased to sponsor BSL sign interpreters on the Interactive Boat today 1pm - 5pm
Created for the Edinburgh Mela by creative-art-works.org with huge thanks to:
Charan Pradhan (Dance Namaste) - Hanuman
Philip Knight - Sun Wukong
Mara Menzies (Toto Tales) - Storyteller
Graham Alexander - Bear, Wolf, Squirrel, Wildcat & Eagle

Interactive Workshop Programme

Saturday 29th August

Performance Workshops

12noon - 12:30pm	Introducing Sun Wukong The irrepressible Chinese Monkey-King and his Magic Wishing Staff	FCS Performers	Children & families All ages
12:30 - 1:00pm	African Rythmn & Song	Be United	Children & families All ages
1:00 - 1:30pm	Introducing Hanuman Mighty Hindu Monkey-God, Master of music & expert in dance	Charan Pradhan (Dance Namaste) And The Himalayan Centre For Arts And Culture	Children & families All ages
1:30 - 2:00pm	Interactive Games, Songs & Stories	PlayTalkRead	0 - 5 yr olds & their families
2:00 - 2:30 pm	African Rythmn & Song	Be United	Children & families All ages
2:30 - 3:00pm	Surprise Guest	Wait and see!	Children & families All ages
3:00 - 3:30pm	Senagalese Drumming	Guimba & Samba	Children & families All ages
3:30 - 4:00pm	Family Hip-Hop	Step It Up Dance (Lisa Mcleod)	Children & families All ages
4:00 - 4.30pm	Interactive Games, Songs & Stories	PlayTalkRead	0 - 5 yr olds & their families
4:30 - 5:00pm	"Sahakriya" Melody and Harmony - Indian and Scottish Folk Fusion	Sunita Violina	Children 8+ & their families
5:00 - 5:30pm	Bollywood Dance	Charan Pradhan (Dance Namaste)	Children & families All ages
5:30 - 6:00pm	Spirit Of The Wild Finale With Hanuman, Sun Wukong & the Senagalese Drummers	FCS Performers & Charan Pradhan & Guimba & Samba	Everyone. And we mean EVERYONE!

*FCS pleased to Created

Sunday 30th August

Performance Workshops

12noon - 12:30pm	Introducing Sun Wukong The irrepressible Chinese Monkey-King and his magic Wishing Staff	FCS Performers	Children & families All ages
12:30 - 1:00pm	African Rythmn & Song	Be United	Children & families All ages
1:00 - 1:30pm	Introducing Hanuman Mighty Hindu Monkey-God, Master of music & expert in dance	Charan Pradhan (Dance Namaste) & The Himalayan Centre For Arts And Culture	Children & families All ages
1:30 - 2:00pm	Interactive Games, Songs & Stories	PlayTalkRead	0 - 5 yr olds & their families
2:00 - 2:30 pm	Indian Dance	Nita Joshi	Children & families All ages
2:30 - 3:00pm	Bollywood Dance	The Durtentine High School Dancers	Children & families All ages
3:00 - 3:30pm	Senagalese Drumming	Guimba & Samba	Children & families All ages
3:30 - 4:00pm	Interactive Games, Songs & Stories	PlayTalkRead	0 - 5 yr olds & their families
4:00 - 4.30pm	Indian Dance Family Workshop	Dance thayani	Children & families All ages
4:30 - 5:00pm	Bollywood Dance	Hanuman & The Durtentine High School Dancers	Children & families All ages
5:00 - 5:30pm	Spirit Of The Wild Finale With Hanuman, Sun Wukong & the Senagalese Drummers	FCS Performers & Charan Pradhan & Guimba And Samba & The Durtentine High School Dancers	Everyone. And we mean EVERYONE!

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an Centre www.creative-art-works.org ture



“Your eagle man made me smile — he was actually jaw droppingly perfect at being a golden eagle . I was with him all the way”



4. Participating Organisations and Individuals

Both Saturday and Saturday comprised of **162 staff** with **6 Mela volunteers**.

Roles and responsibilities included:

- A joiner and arts assistant for the preparation and décor and set up and take-down.
- Artists and facilitators contracted to deliver the children and family interactive workshops for each day of the festival.

The staffing was made up from the following categories:

Core Staff Contracted for the Area

Creative Art Works core team:

- **Joanna Boyce** - 20 days
- **Stuart England** - 10 days
- **Lyver Chavez** - 10 days
- **Sarah England** - 3 days
- **Rebecca Kitching** - 2 days
- **Lindsay Snedden** - Photographer - 2 days
- **Mark England** - Stage Manager (paid for by the Production Budget)

Contracted Creative Specialists

- Visual Artist: Sushil Mangaonkar, Emma Picken and BE United artists
- Model Maker: Ruth Harrison
- Crafts people: Josephine Morton and Chinese Knotting Group Sharmili Lama and NSA team
- Dancer: Charan Pradhan - Dance Namaste
- Musicians: BE United (Including Samba Sene, Guimba Diallo et al)
- Storyteller/Actors: Mara Menzies, Philip Knight and Graham Alexander

Participating Service Providers

- **Forestry Commission Scotland** (FCS)
- **The Conservation Volunteers** (TCV)
- **Scottish Natural Heritage** (SNH)
- **National Trust Scotland** (NTS)
- **Woodland Trust Scotland** (WTS)
- **Midlothian Ranger Service Team**
- **Deaf Action** (BSL Sign Interpreters and visit from Deaf Action Youth Group)
- **See Play Read** (Under 5’s activity)

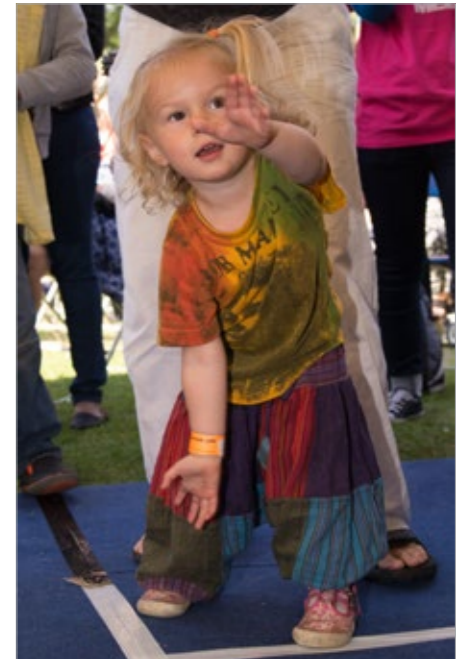
Participating Community Groups/ Charities/Volunteers

- **Dunfermline High School** (5 staff, 12 students)
- **Himalayan Centre for Arts & Culture** (HCAC)
- **Nepal Scotland Association** (NSA)
- **BE United Volunteers**
- **Nila Joshi - Indian Folk-dance Team**
- **Deaf Action**
- **Deaf Action Youth Group**
- **Deaf Blether**

Participating Local Business

Dance Workshops:

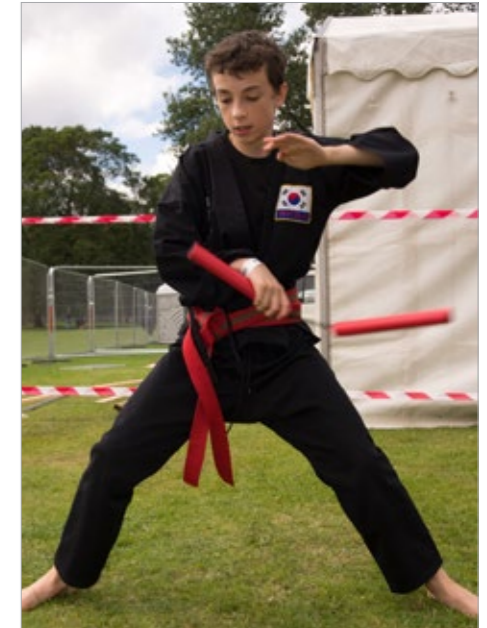
- **Step it Up Dance** (10 adults & 4 students)
- **Dance Ihayami** (1 adult)
- **Kuk-Sool-Won Martial Arts Team** (20+ adults and students)



“My family has been here for over 4 hours still no grumps and groans — all busy and happy. Wonderful”



5. Image Gallery





6. Visitor Feedback

The following feedback was collected in a comments book, passed around the site:

Thank you for such dedicated staff and focused activities for younger children. So often, at these events the younger kids needs are ignored. My older kids were able to get my full attention to explore the nature craft and touch tables while my 3yr old and 5yr old could enjoy what was on offer for wee ones in their own way at their own pace. They especially enjoyed the Play Bus stuff and the action song workshop.
(parent)

I'm a teacher and I just want to say that this place is GREAT for kids – Children are totally loving all the activity and they love just collecting the stickers as they go – and parents love that it is all free. Thank you.
(parent and teacher)

Brilliant, Brilliant – great range of activities for young and old. I shall be stealing a lot of these ideas and using them in the classroom! Thanks for the ideas and Inspiration. (Primary school teacher)

Do you have a website where I can contact all these super artists and activity leaders? (CDL worker)

This place is great for the kids. We all love coming here. We come to this Kidzone every year. It's the main reason we come to the Mela. Its always very, very good. We have all loved doing the Chinese knotting activity. Very very good – my grandson is very happy.
(Grandfather with his children and grandchildren)

We really loved making the butterflies with The Conservation Volunteers. Arts and crafts activities are what my children love best – and me! And there are lots on offer in this kids area.

This children and families zone makes the Mela for families. It means all can have fun from oldest to youngest. This is why we come to the Mela. This place is always so well organized and it always has a great atmosphere. The kids can spend all day here and never get bored.

The performances on the boat this year have been exceptional !! My children and my neighbour's children are enthralled by them. The actors have this rare quality of being able to animate big groups of children while at the same time being able to focus on individuals – making each child feel important. Thank you Forestry Commission for this imaginative engagement.
(Beth)

My child loves everything here – He loved making the wooden animals best of all.
(Mother from Greece)

We all loved watching the martial arts Kids – great to see them out enjoying themselves and the discipline.

Dancing with the Blue and the Red monkeys was hilarious!

We come all the way from Fife every year especially for this Kidzone. I've never had any complaints at all in this place. My wife and I bring our nieces and grand nieces and nephews. Its all so well organized. Its taken us a bit of time to get round everything – look my hands are full with all the art stuff the kids have made! And it's a lovely Sunny day too.

Scores and scores of happy children fixated on the performers. Hats off to you all, the Forestry boat is amazing !!!

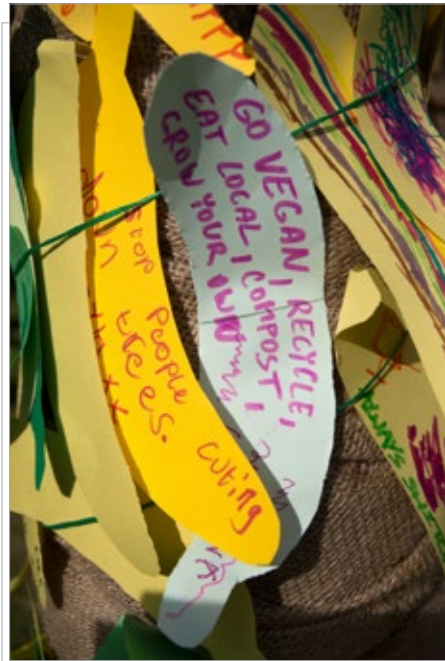
This Kidzone is outstanding – not only because its colourful to look at but its also a safe and happy place for children to get artistic and enjoy and learn at the same time. And for adults can relax and watch and also join it.

There are three of us here – and no kids! But we love it all the same. It brings out the kid inside us!! Its lovely to see young ones having such fun- and the old!! We especially enjoyed the Woodland Trust stall – and the Forestry Commission – the animal performers and making the wooden animals.

This area is perfect for Young and old – monkey Gods, mini beasts, Bollywood, trees to plant, songs to sing – an amazing boat and lots of arts and craft.



“So lovely to find this haven of pure happiness amongst all the bling and trashy stuff”



So lovely to find this haven of pure happiness amongst all the bling and trashy stuff.

The boat people are something else – they have been performing their hearts out!!! They are working directly with every child – really genuine and heartfelt . Great acting too – and so gentle with the wee one. The wolf story made me cry!!!

Everywhere I look you can see folk having fun here. Parents are piled high with arty crafty stuff made by their kids. Lots of smiley faces – children, parents, aunties and uncles. Very sweet place.

Mela Kids – you have done it again with a first class event , well thought out and packed with delights...



That boat is as stroke of genius. It's kept my kids happy for hours – no need to go further!

My family has been here for over 4 hours still no grumps and groans – all busy and happy. Wonderful.

The Woodland Trust activities were fantastic – hands on and fun - and a tree to take home and plant.



The mini beast trays were the best things here.

Monkeys are the best!

I like making my elephant God from the pink dough.

The two dancing monkeys were the best thing

The Chinese knotting Monkey from knots was my favourite.



Everything was perfect. My little boy was tired but in spite of that he still made a monkey mask and an amazing monkey pendant.



Visitor Feedback - Happy Monkeys

Positioned at the Kidszone exit. Children (and parents) were encouraged to add comments to the “happy and “unhappy” monkeys. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive (even on the unhappy monkey sheets).

It's grrrrreat here, really good – we loved your dancing Hanuman. He was unstoppable. We are here with our kids and all having the best time.

I liked making my elephant in Nepal (aged 6)

We've all had a great time here. Really Brilliant. All great.

My family are very happy. Especially loved the Chinese and Nepal activity stalls – and making the monkey masks in India.

I like face painting in Africa.

We loved the Monkey gods - the Chinese one and the Indian One – they were both TOP MONKEYS!

Your eagle man made me smile – he was actually jaw droppingly perfect at being a golden eagle. I was with him all the way. Thanks to FCS for funding this boat – very clever.

We liked looking at the mini beasts under the microscope

“Everywhere I look you can see folk having fun here. Parents are piled high with arty crafty stuff made by their kids. Lots of smiley faces – children, parents, aunties and uncles. Very sweet place”

“That boat is as stroke of genius. It's kept my kids happy for hours – no need to go further!”



Fantastic effort, very engaging, kids spent the whole day here

Lots for the babies, great, especially the sensory tent

Great to see the dancing displays, both my boys loved watching

Hanuman was fantastic, thank you

Kate and James

Very happy to be here with my kids

An amazing cultural experience for the whole family, great experience, will definitely come again

Brilliant, lots of interesting things for the kids and adults, loved the lichen

Great experience for the kids, and also in terms of cultural and environmental education

Smashing story telling, craft, dancing and bubbles. Love the Mela

Loved making the wands and the mini beasts, you should all be proud

Amazing good experience, well done

Hanuman was great, fab dancing

I loved the dancing, the music, the smiley people

The Kidzone was great, I met wonderful people

I loved to see Kiera so happy and Maggi so magical. I am grateful for this beautiful day here in the sun and spending the day with the beloveds

I love the Forestry Commission boat and the story telling. Cheers

We enjoyed all the Mela arts especially the lichen one

We have had the best time, thank you

We had great fun :) lots of fun and great ideas

Had a good adventure with the little one :)

It was great atmosphere and it was a great experience

Well organised happy staff, my children were kept on task and stayed focused on the event from start to finish

My daughter loved making her monkey mask and my son was totally happy just collecting his banana stickers from bottom to top

Lots to do for children, nice atmosphere, everyone nice and friendly, volunteers are great, good work

Really varied selection of things to do

Lots of things to see, even without kids!, great atmosphere (how old is too old to get your face painted!)

Well laid out , great range of activities for all ages, even babies.

Absolutely brilliant for families!, lots of variety! great activities!! kids all love it!

We loved the monkey man and his dancing. Woohoo!

I think it was brilliant, covered a lot of activities for children of all ages



“Lots of things to see, even without kids!, great atmosphere (how old is too old to get your face painted!)”

“Absolutely brilliant for families! lots of variety! great activities! kids all love it!”



The play area for under 5's! (quite important for us)

Amazing, what an incredible atmosphere for multi-cultural harmony

Lewis loved everything

Kidzone was excellent, the boys loved it

Fantastic fun, great atmosphere

Very informative and highly entertaining for the kids... and the adults

We love the Mela, amazing Kidzone we come every year and make crazy things to the sound of crazy things

Excellent, great fun with monkey man, loved the funny impressions, made me feel happy, loved the conga at the end

We loved the Mela Monkey theme this year

My kids went Bananas for this place

Wish I was 7 again!

My kid is just loving all these stickers and shiny bits and pieces

The boat performers are incredible, hilarious, my kid is mesmerised and totally focused

Very good place for kids to learn. Baby tent for play is a very good idea.

Absolutely perfectly pitched for kids of all ages. Excellent.

Amazing, best day out in the whole of the festival. Go Leith!

“Very informative and highly entertaining for the kids... and the adults”

“The boat performers are incredible, hilarious, my kid is mesmerised and totally focused”

Loved the Bollywood dancing

Excellent place to picnic with other mums from Polish Professionals, Forum Mums and Dads network

It was very fun

I liked making my cow in Nepal

I liked the fighting (martial arts)

I liked doing the fighting with the fighting men

I liked making the knot monkey

I had a great time doing the monkey bag and meeting the monkey. Thanks

I like making my dough mouse

I like the activities and I really enjoyed collecting stickers

I liked COOL activities

Very fun it was amazing

Lots of fun things and lots of happy monkeys

We liked the story telling

Everything was good, there was nothing bad

I loved the story on the boat

I met people from my country, Poles Rule



“Excellent, great fun with monkey man, loved the funny impressions, made me feel happy, loved the conga at the end”

“Amazing, best day out in the whole of the festival. Go Leith!”



It was great music and I loved doing the dancing

Bring back the real animals (Gorgie Farm)

I liked the banana tree and I liked making things

I liked getting stickers for doing challenges

I loved making a wand

I loved the Indian dance workshop

We loved banging the drums

I like Go Bananas, Mela Monkey it's fun

I had fun making the wand

You made me feel better

Tons of fun activities, I will recommend this place to the whole world

I am so happy to be here by Ibrahim

Teddy liked it as well

I enjoyed the insects

I loved the music

I have had a fun time, I did not hook a duck, but I did make a monkey. It was so fun, thank you everyone

"Tons of fun activities, I will recommend this place to the whole world"

"It was great music and I loved doing the dancing"

I don't want to be melodramatic but this is the best day ever!!!

Although the feedback was overwhelmingly good there were comments with suggestions for improvements in the future:

Try targeting older kids, but its fun for little kids

More space for the craft activities, the mask area got very crowded

Instead of a bigger sticker at the end... they could be given a free banana

We would like to see a Pakistan Craft Stall

No access to soft drinks. Water in Kids area, just an idea

Great experience, requires more access for prams, good job

I didn't get a go on everything

It took ages to make the monkey things

My henna hands stopped me doing other activities, next time I will do that last

Some of the things are finished

Scary monkey man

Some of the places were full

It is too busy for me

And for me, it was a long wait for some things



"My henna hands stopped me doing other activities, next time I will do that last"

"Instead of a bigger sticker at the end... they could be given a free banana"

Participant Feedback

Our team enjoyed the weekend, with all the volunteers very happy to have been involved. We look forward to Mela 2016 with the hope of a bigger area and more diverse activities to be offered by BE United.

BE United

PlayTalkRead attended the Edinburgh Mela on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August 2015. In the Kidzone tent, the play workers delivered a fun song and rhyme session for families, as well as playing games with the families. Back at the PlayTalkRead stall, the team delivered arts and crafts activities and "Messy play". The Edinburgh Mela was a great success for us, with more than 1000 visitors to our stall. The Kidzone was fantastic, we especially appreciated being able to deliver the drop in sessions in the workshop tent as it allowed many families to come together and enjoy PlayTalkRead away from the stall, where it was very busy, and enjoy some songs and games. PlayTalkRead would love to attend the Edinburgh Mela again next year!

Play Talk Read

The following are extracts from the Participants Monitoring form distributed to all the participating organisations:

A Organisation and support: how easy was it for you to prepare for the event?

Joanna was a great help and a great contact before and throughout the Mela. So very easy.

Everything OK

Very Easy

B Organisation and support: how easy was it for you to participate over the weekend?

Great, We accessed the site on Friday to set up which made things easier for Saturday and Sunday

All OK

Very helpful

C Please share with us any direct feedback you received from your staff /participants or members of the public.

Families seemed to have a great time. Lots of happy people. When asked which was their favourite... Many families said "all of it".

Really good event, senior management of NTS want to come back next year.

No direct feedback but children seemed to enjoy monkey masks.

D Would you participate in similar types of Mela events and if so, what would you like changed /improved?

Yes. Voices were a bit strained by the end. Music was quite loud at times (fuddy duddies).

Yes

Yes our pupils had a great time helping out.

E Any other comments

Great event. Great people and great atmosphere.

F Would you like to be contacted for involvement in next year's Edinburgh Mela, or any other related events?

Yes please.

Yes

8. Participant Monitoring

Due the large volume of participants it was impossible to accurately monitor all participants within the Kidzone, however we do know that we handed out at least 1,800 "Go Bananas" passes over Saturday and Sunday.

Official Mela visitors 2015:

Total attendance : **26,000**

Kids: **5,442**

Although difficult to count visitors to each zone while working some staff and volunteers were able to keep rough participant records through both material count and on going note-taking. We can estimate minimum numbers in the kids area over the weekend to be something in the region of **1,800 - 2,100** visitors.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

“It was great to welcome the Play Talk Read bus to Edinburgh Mela 2015 Kidzone. They provided a diverse range of activity to stimulate under 5’s and their Mums and Dads and carers. Their staff were engaging and their song and play resources were both fun and educational. The See Play Read presence meant other arts and craft on site could flow smoothly allowing facilitators to concentrate on primary aged participants. Kidzone feedback over the years has always asked for more activity for nursery age and under 5’s. Especially needed was more activity for the 3yr olds and under. So we were delighted when Play Talk Read came on board. ”

Joanna Boyce. Edinburgh Mela, Kidzone Manager

Sacred Cow



Some people believe that cows are special and by loving this gentle animal, who gives more than she takes, we can love all creatures. Because cows don't hurt or eat other animals and are very strong and gentle they can help us to feel connected to nature and the environment.

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Ganesh



Ganesh is known for his wisdom, success and good luck and he can easily overcome any problem or difficulty. Ganesh likes to do favours for people. Ganesh is easy to recognise. He has a trunk, big ears, tusks, four arms, two legs and a big tummy. His tummy is so big that people have said that he has the entire universe inside it. Most pictures of Ganesh show with a bowl of sweets in front of him and he usually has a mouse with him too.

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Appendix 2 “Animal God” Posters

Sun Wukong



Sun Wukong is also known as the Monkey King. He is high-spirited and full of mischievous pranks. Sun Wukong is very strong and also extremely fast. He can travel 54,000 km (34,000 miles) in one somersault. Sun also knows how to transform himself into other animals and objects, however he is always worried that when he does this he might lose his lovely tail in the process. Sun Wukong is a skilled fighter. He also knows spells that can command the wind, freeze people and he can also make protective force fields to defend himself.

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Hanuman



Hanuman the monkey is renowned for his courage, power and faithfulness. He has many special powers including the ability to change his form at will, and to travel easily wherever he wishes. Hanuman is also a master of music and an expert in dance and drama and so musicians and actors love him. He is a symbol of courage, loyalty and mature wisdom. His greatest feat of strength was to move an entire mountain. A friend was wounded in battle and the doctor asked Hanuman to go to a mountain to find a special plant that would help make his friend better. When Hanuman arrived at the mountain he forgot which plant he was supposed to bring back. So rather than guess, and get it wrong, he picked up the whole mountain and took it back with him.

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Appendix 3

Creative Art Works offers a unique combination of creative, professional and organisational skills with experience that ranges across the commercial, financial, artistic and not for profit sectors.

Our aims are to:

- Use art and drama to facilitate creativity and expression in others, using artistic engagement as a tool for analysis, discovery and learning.
- Help corporate and third sector organisations make informed decisions through a creative use of market research, concept development and project management.
- Plan, create and deliver projects, programmes and events that engage with all sections of society including hard to reach and minority groups.
- Promote, record and report using the written word, the visual arts, print, photography, design and the web.

We work with public, private and third sector organisations and strive to provide everyone with access to our services. Whilst we offer cost effective solutions to all our clients we are committed to directing any profit we generate towards supporting our work with groups engaged in social and educational projects.

Creative Art Works has particular interest in projects which promote sustainability, maximise social capital and engage with hard to reach and out of reach social groups. We believe in creating benefit beyond the immediate project remit and, when possible and appropriate, we will offer work and development opportunities to people looking for employment.

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