



Croydon Schools' Dance Association – 2009/2010 Report

The number of groups affiliated to CSDA has increased this year to sixty-four. The membership currently comprises two special schools, fourteen high schools, nine junior schools, twenty-three primary schools, nine infant schools, two freelance dance teachers, Blue Sky youth dance company, a ballroom and a salsa dance group each with students from several schools, one prep school and one out of Borough teacher who wished to stay in touch with CSDA's activities.

Of these, fifty-five groups took part in the annual performances at the Fairfield Hall on 24 and 25 March 2010. CSDA once more had to include a matinee performance in order to accommodate all the groups wishing to perform. Community groups of older citizens were invited to attend the matinee and the special ticket rates for schools meant that whole schools were also able to come and watch the performance. Peter Westlake was the guest of honour at the matinee, and he escorted the Mayor of Croydon and Jane Coulson (director of Beyond Repair Dance Company who got to the final of the SKY TV *Got to Dance* competition) who each attended an evening performance as a guest of honour. The lists of schools dancing at each performance follow at the end of this report.

The performances were entitled *Poetry in Motion* and each school chose their own interpretation and music without lyrics and over 1,000 Croydon students (ranging from 5 to 18 years) performed to packed houses. Dances in a wide range of styles were performed. There were two all male groups dancing and several schools sent more than one group to dance.

High school students were again given a chance to showcase their own choreography in a performance, *Choreographics 6*, held at the Ashcroft Theatre on 21 January 2010. This year high school students from the BRIT School, Virgo Fidelis, St Andrew's, Shirley and Woodcote High Schools took part. Blue Sky Dance Company also performed and the senior workshop piece (see paragraph below) included students from the BRIT School and from St Andrew's, Shirley and Woodcote High Schools.

Following from the success of last year's Senior Dance Workshops for students in years 9 to 11, three twilight workshops were planned for January at the BRIT School. However, heavy snow forced two of the sessions to be cancelled. This meant that the resulting dance (choreographed by Vix Kerley, Shirley High School teacher and Andrea Davis, BRIT School Director of Dance) was completed in one session!

Dance workshops for boys were held in November and March at the BRIT School in order to raise the profile of boys' dance. BRIT male students taught contemporary and street dance to boys from years 5 to 8 in after school workshops. At the end of each session, the boys performed the dances they had learned to their family and teachers.

CSDA continues to sponsor Blue Sky Dance Company – a youth dance company with members aged from 10 to 14 years. As well as performing in CSDA events this year, the company performed in London and south eastern youth dance competitions and events. The director is Gemma Coldicott, a

community dance worker, who also runs CSDA endorsed jazz and contemporary dance classes for adults in South Croydon.

A Day of Dance for students in years 5-8 who performed in the Fairfield Hall concert was held in May at St Andrew's High School. After warming up in a large group, the dancers split into groups, each with a different teacher, to produce a dance. At the end of the day, all the dances were combined into a performance for teachers, family and friends.

Every Country's Dancing, a multicultural dance festival, was held at Smitham Primary School. Junior age children had the opportunity to learn Afro-Caribbean, cha cha and Scottish country dances. The afternoon concluded with a picnic and a showing to parents and friends of the three dances learned.

This year CSDA has secured funding from Croydon Voluntary Action to run its own summer school – Dance Slam – during the last week of July. Schools are asked to nominate gifted and talented students from year 5 upwards to attend the week long course which will be held at Shirley High School. Students will have three classes a day in a wide variety of dance styles including contemporary, break, hip hop, street, jazz, Bollywood and musical theatre dance and take part in a performance project which they will show to parents and friends at the end of the week. There will be a nominal charge for the week and this, added to the funding, has permitted CSDA to engage high profile teachers from outside of the Borough. There will also be twilight dance classes for adults.

The one continuing problem that CSDA faces is how to get more schools (other than those associated with the committee) to attend events or send students to events. Hopefully, our website (csdance.org.uk) with downloadable documents will help to alleviate this.

The CSDA Resource Centre is still officially housed at Ashburton Library. Teachers from CSDA affiliated schools, once they are members of Croydon libraries, are able to borrow CDs, DVDs, videos and books to aid with dance teaching to both primary and secondary students. The Centre seems to have been little used. Unfortunately, many of the items bought by CSDA are currently missing; therefore we have to find out what has happened to these before we can promote the Centre or add to it.

CSDA has a group on Facebook with an increasing membership and CSDA will again this year produce a glossy leaflet detailing of all the year's events and achievements which will be sent to all Croydon schools.

CSDA Committee 2009-2010

Chairman: Barbara Richardson

Vice Chairman and Secretary: Mary Cox

Treasurer: Janet Brett

Newsletter Editor: Vix Kerley

Members: Jenny Barber

Sheila Bryan

Andrea Davis

Rachel Smith

Co-opted: Gemma Coldicott

The following 23 groups participated in this year's CSDA performance, *Poetry In Motion*, at the Fairfield Halls during the evening of 24 March 2010:

Ridgeway Primary School (Infants)
Smitham Primary School
Selsdon Primary School
Amarnah Amuludun (BRIT School solo)
Ridgeway Primary School (Juniors)
St Mary's Catholic Infant School
Woodcote Primary School
Winterbourne Infant School
St Mark's CofE Primary School
Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School
Forestdale Primary School
Priory School
Broadmead Nursery & Infant School
St Andrew's High School
Atwood Primary School (Infants)
St Joseph's RC Junior School (Girls)
The Hayes Primary School
Elmwood Junior School
Atwood Primary School (Juniors)
Margaret Roper RC Primary School
St Joseph's RC Junior School (Boys)
Thomas Becket RC Primary School
Chipstead Valley Primary School

These 10 schools performed in the matinee at the Fairfield Halls on 25 March 2010:

Wolsey Infant & Nursery School
Duppas Junior School
St Chad's Primary School
Parish Church Nursery & Infant School
The Hayes Primary School
Purley Oaks Primary School
St Joseph's RC Infant School
St Aidan's RC Primary School
Woodside Childrens' Centre & Infant School
Good Shepherd RC Primary School

These 22 groups performed during the evening of 25 March 2010:

Salsa Naturally
St Chad's Primary School
Monks Orchard Primary School
BRIT School (two groups)
Roke Primary School
Benson Primary School
Howard Primary School
St James the Great Infant School
David Livingstone Primary School
St James the Great Junior School
Keston Primary School
Shirley High School
Kingsley Primary School
Orchard Way Primary School
Woodcote High School
West Thornton Primary School
Wattenden Primary School
Shirley High School (boys)
Parish Church Junior School

Blue Sky Dance Company
Winterbourne Junior Girls' School