

## Year Highlights

### A Brush with Royalty...



Harminder was delighted to meet her second royal, HRH The Princess Royal - what an honour!

Harminder's first royal encounter was with HRH The Duke of Cambridge in 2017!

HRH The Princess Royal visited Northampton to mark the 25th anniversary of the IHWO (Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation) and the 5th anniversary of the IHWO Chai and Chat Ladies' group. We were delighted to have been invited.

### Out in the Sun...



One of our favourite events of the summer was Bicester Festival Sea Change 2021, where we unveiled our bespoke commissioned giant squid, Inkling.

The frame used to manoeuvre Inkling is specially designed for community parades like this. It seats four people - one pedals, and the others use poles to manipulate the puppet - and is surprisingly easy to operate. Children enjoyed swapping places during the parade so they could all have a go at pedalling!

### The Nights are Drawing In...



After Diwali went virtual in 2020, it was a real highlight to celebrate the Festival of Lights in person again in Northampton in 2021.

We celebrated with our two giant pedal-powered creatures, Harminder and Shanti (more about them on page 2), and six bespoke Diwali puppets.

We also loved getting back into schools and St Crispins Retirement Village for workshops to make lanterns which lit up the parade.

### Christmas is Coming...



We had a wonderfully busy Christmas period. We used lockdown to redecorate our trusty sleigh in a traditional red, gold, and green colour scheme.

The sleigh can easily be pulled by a vintage tricycle, and it was great to have the honour of transporting Santa in multiple parades in 2021! When parked up the sleigh is also perfect for a photo op...

So, get those Christmas bookings in early for public or private hire in 2022!



## A Look Inside in the Workshop...



### The 'Big Make' of the Year for 2021 is... The Paralympic Heritage Cauldron!

The cauldron was commissioned for use in the Stoke Mandeville Paralympic opening ceremony for the Tokyo games. It will also be used in all future opening ceremonies at Stoke Mandeville for summer and winter paralympic games.

A key design feature is the almost full-length flame, which allows the cauldron to be lit from the bottom.

This make was a huge honour, and we even made the Channel 4 News!

## Creature Comforts...

We used 2021 as an opportunity to give our giant pedal-powered creatures a bit of attention.

So, behind the workshop doors throughout the year we have been remodelling, reinventing, and redecorating to make our creatures bigger and better than ever with exciting new features. A smoke-blowing dragon anyone...?



NAME: GWYNHAFF  
AGE: 2½  
CREATURE: DRAGON  
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY: ST GEORGE'S DAY  
FUN FACT: LOVES THE SEASIDE



NAME: OSCAR  
AGE: 3  
CREATURE: FOX  
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY: EASTER  
ALTER EGO: SNOW FOX



NAME: ARCHIE  
AGE: 2  
CREATURE: LION  
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY: CHRISTMAS  
FAVOURITE PLACE: NARNIA



NAME: HARMINDER  
AGE: 7  
CREATURE: ELEPHANT  
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY: DIWALI  
ALTER EGO: WOOLLY MAMMOTH



NAME: SHANTI  
AGE: 5  
CREATURE: GARUDA BIRD  
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY: DIWALI  
BEST FRIEND: GANESHA



NAME: HILARY  
AGE: 8  
CREATURE: TRICERATOPS DINOSAUR  
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY: HALLOWEEN  
FAVOURITE PLACE: JURASSIC COAST

