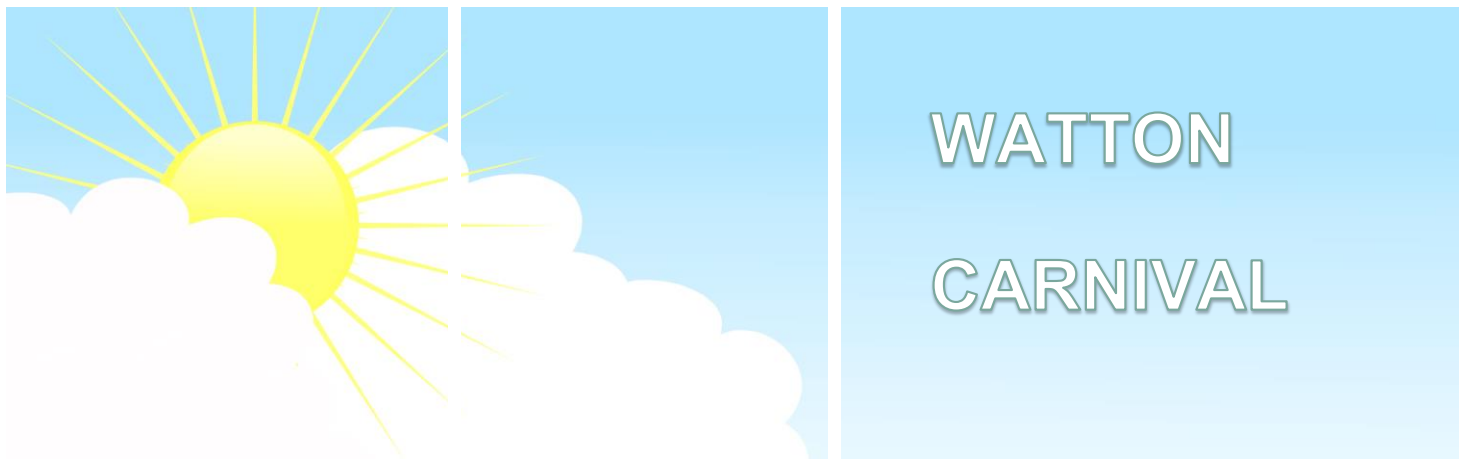


Watton Carnival

2017 REPORT

Upholding local traditions



Watton Carnival

Tel Telephone 01953 882260
website www.wattoncarnival.co.uk

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To our Sponsors

Strategic Highlights

The Carnival is a long standing tradition in our market town. For many years, the High Street has been transformed for the day providing family fun for the whole community. Local organisations, charities and stall holders from further afield fundraise and provide/sell food, fun and entertainment. We are fortunate to have a sponsored ride/activity that is free for the children of the Town to enjoy, this is very important to us and we aim/hope to be able to offer this at every carnival.

A few people have asked why the event is held in September now rather than the traditional June, the answer is simply down to available time for the small voluntary committee who organise the event. Having the 6-week summer break in the run up to the Carnival gives our volunteers the opportunity to ensure that everything is well planned and runs smoothly.

Due to difficulties with erecting the free attraction last year (sponsored by Watton Town Council) we have received a full refund, for which we are very grateful. We would like to talk with the Town Council about the possibility of either putting the money towards replacing the old worn out bunting for the Town or to fund additional free attractions for this year's event.

The carnival encourages people of the town, young and old to come together and enjoy the day. It provides an opportunity for charities, organisations and businesses to raise awareness and fundraise for specific or general causes. We aim to make it as inexpensive as possible for families, offering free attractions, free entry, the church service and parade as well as rides and activities. The high quality attractions have aided the success of the carnival spanning several decades and we hope this will continue for many more.

As the carnival is continuing and building on the success of previous years we are seeing an increase in the number of participants, attractions and stalls, there was an array of homemade produce and crafts which were extremely well received with great feedback.

Without the support of our sponsors the Carnival would become increasingly difficult to uphold. We are sincerely thankful and grateful to all our sponsors, new and old for their continued support.

Financial

The carnival relies on funding from sponsors and money raised from stalls and attractions on the day. We have been extremely fortunate in past years to cover all costs whilst leaving an ample amount in the bank account to kick-start the following year's event. A financial statement has been prepared and is attached.

Looking Ahead

We are very fortunate to live in a community like Watton where people value the carnival as much as we do. The committee has grown in members who are working hard behind the scenes, we have also increased support and sponsorship to make the day a success.

Last year there was some confusion over stall locations and shops being open. We have listened to the feedback and this year we plan to make contact with shop owners earlier in the year prior to the event to establish if they are planning to open on the day. We are passionate about getting all shop owners on board with our plans for this year and involve the whole community.

Planning is underway and the theme for this year's carnival is, '*The Magic of Books*' We would love for the shops to embrace the theme and decorate their windows, to join in the walking parade and to very much be part of the day.

We would like to introduce one of our carnival mascots into schools and nurseries with a free welcome activity pack. **'Barrel'** Hareton's helper' is a friendly little chap with his own suitcase and outfits, he reflects the history of the Town of a hare and we hope the schools will warm to him and adopt him and have some adventures in his short stays.

We aim to keep the familiar format as in previous years, opening the carnival at 11.00am with a special open-air morning service led by Watton Pentecostal Church, followed at 11.45 with the official opening ceremony by the Town Mayor Tina Kiddell.

We hope you will all embrace this year's theme **'The Magic of Books'**. All local groups, organisations, charities, businesses and individuals are encouraged to join the parade the more the merrier! There is no payment attached and all are welcome, no prior notification is necessary for the procession, just come along and join in the fun.

Summary

The committee worked extremely hard last year to make the Carnival a success, there was some very positive feedback on social media both on the day of the carnival and since. The weather was kind and the footfall was high.

In general, Watton Carnival is picking up momentum and we look forward to its continued success. It's a great community event.

Main Contact Information



Steve Jolly Chairman

Tel 07729 333002



Jayne Eastwood Secretary

Tel 01953) 880076



Cheryl Clayton Admin/Treasurer

Tel 01953 882260



Georgina Agent Administrator

gjeagent@googlemail.com

Facebook: - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1607623402793980/>

Twitter: - <https://twitter.com/CarnivalWatton>

Website <http://www.wattoncarnival.co.uk/>