

Watton Carnival

2018 REPORT

Upholding local traditions



Watton Carnival

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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 into a fun, vibrant, vivacious environment that brings a great sense of community spirit and family fun. Local organisations, charities, entertainers and stall holders from further afield fill the high street raising funds for their cause, selling handmade products, providing food and drink and engaging the crowd. 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 hope to be able to offer this every year.

The carnival brings people of the town both young and old together. It provides an opportunity for charities, organisations and businesses to raise awareness and fundraise for their cause. We aim to make it as inexpensive and diverse as possible, offering free attractions, free entry, a church service and parade as well as reasonably priced rides and activities. Baring the Watton Christmas Market there is no other annual event in the town that brings the community together for the day on mass and numbers seem to be increasing year on year. 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 to build on the success of previous years we are seeing an increase in footfall as well as a wider interest from attractions and stalls. There were an array of homemade produce and crafts on offer this year which were extremely well received with great feedback.

A special mention must go to the Watton and District Rotary Club who sold umbrellas to be decorated to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK and Rotary Charities. Many of the finished products could be seen during the walking parade on the day.

Also a big thank you to Watton Town Council for providing our free to the public attraction on the day. The model racing cars proved a huge hit and drew a consistent crowd throughout the event.

As well as various bands and singers throughout the day, the carnival committee paid for a street entertainer in the form of Crazy Bananas the clown to entertain the public, creating balloon animals and spreading joy to the many families in attendance.

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 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 gained increased support and sponsorship from local businesses and organisations to make the day a continued and sustainable success.

Planning is well underway for this year's carnival with the theme being, '*Festival of Colour*' We would love for the local shops to embrace the theme and decorate their windows accordingly. We would also like to extend an invitation for them to take part in the parade on the day and will make contact with them regarding this nearer the time.

For the first time in 2018 we invited local primary and junior schools in the Wayland catchment area to take part in decorating a 10" hare. The results were overwhelming with far more children participating than anticipated, with some real artistic flare shown. The competition ended in a draw with prize money being shared between Ashill VC Primary School and Great Hockham Primary School.

2018 also saw the first year of "Hunting Hareton" with hares being hidden in local shops around town and being marked off of a treasure hunt style sheet. Each child that completed the hunt was awarded with a small treat. Again the support for this was overwhelming and is an activity we will be repeating this coming year.

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.

We hope you will all embrace this year's theme ***'Festival of Colour'***. 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



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