

WELLS CARNIVAL – CHAIRMANS REPORT 2018

Welcome and good evening to you all and thank you for coming to the Wells Carnival Committee AGM

As chairman of the committee I welcome all present and ask for any apologies.

The minutes of the last AGM are available and I hope have been read.....
Approved. Any matters arising from those minutes.

Before I give my report I would like to say a big thank you to Sue, Abi and the Reverend Woodruff for the use of the Gordon Barrett Hall tonight and their help during Carnival Week. With The Maltings not up and running for carnival week Sue and Abi once again kindly allowed us to hold events in the marquee in the church hall garden.

and after another successful year the committee hope to continue to hold events here next year. The marquee has worked very well, the crew decorate for each event and the income from the bar has been a big help for the carnival purse.

it's a lovely venue run by lovely people and the bacon sandwiches are very nice too.

My Report

I am very proud to be Wells Carnival Committee chairman. I have been involved with the committee for nearly 20 years, just after leaving school.

The committee has roughly 30 members, and a rough lot they are too

all playing a very active part in organizing carnival and holding events during the very busy week. The committee runs like any company, Directors, accountants, health and safety, HR and a very strong team pulling together, the only benefit is the holidays, work one week and have 51 off. If only it was true

Each member of the team chooses the amount of time and commitment they want to give before and during the week, we each have our own tasks and are always there when additional help is needed. For any new committee members we are not asking for a full commitment, you choose the time you give, it's a great way to meet people, the social side is very active. Most of the committee could be in the AA and that's not for car repairs.

Each event has a committee member in charge of it and makes sure everything that

is needed is booked in and ready for when the crowds arrive. The main big day events "all hands on deck" is the only policy, Carnival Day, Fete Day and the Food & Craft day need over 18hrs of cover, with the days starting before 7am and the last committee member leaves after midnight. All the committee isn't there for 18 hrs, it's a shared day. Dip in and dip out, I always seem to be there when the food is being served.

We have always had a very strong committee and with the Friends of the committee it is now at its strongest. The friends help to marshal events and clear the venues, when the masses have left. Erecting and taking down marquees, bringing more stock to the merchandise stall. Not using the football field was a hard decision to make but we now know, it was the right one.

For the committee and the PA guys the week was so much easier. No need to move equipment, toilets, marquees, rubbish bins and all the merchandise. This year was so much easier and the committee seemed in good spirits most of the week.

A team of 16 marshals help on Carnival Day to cover road junctions when the rolling road closure is in place as the parade goes round the town. This help, and all the other help in the week by the Friends is invaluable to the committee as it allows us to be at the events making sure all goes well.

With the help of the marshals during the parade and the committee crossing t's and dotting the eyes with the other events, the Wells Carnival has a very high standing with the police, local council and district council. Before this year's Carnival we designed and drew up a new safety plan to cover all levels of safety and we pride ourselves in the lengths we go to to make sure all runs smoothly and safely. A big thank you to Sue and Graham with their help and time with this.

We will be speaking to NNDC and other local bodies to make sure we are doing all the right safety requirements and taking advice. We are very proud of our safety record but we need to keep on top of all new rules and laws.

Just walking round the town, going to events and hearing the lovely comments makes all our hard work worth it. I am very proud of the committee and all the work they carry out, bringing so many great memories to families that live here or visit. All the committee's work is carried out in such a professional manner.

So my biggest thank you of the night goes to the very hard working carnival committee that give up so much time and put in so much effort to putting on an amazing week. Also to their family, they didn't choose to join the committee but give support in so many ways, giving us a free week to do the Carnival, they sort out

dogs, children, work and putting up with us coming home late and getting up early to start again.

It's the many meetings that are held, phone calls, emails back and forward to each other. The missed tea's, rushing home from work and forced to go to the pub on a Tuesday evening that makes The Wells Carnival Committee second to none.

Standing on the Buttlands Stage and seeing nearly 4000 people having a great time, at little, if no expense and knowing that the event has been organised by a mixture of people from all walks of life, with no real experience but just simply enjoying it. They are all volunteers, and I am very proud of them all, we still don't know how we do it, but we do

My next big thank you goes to the local business and individuals that sponsor and support the carnival allowing the committee to put on the fun packed week. So many people/business's help/support/donate.

It's not just the large money donations we receive, although very gratefully received, it's the dressing up by the shop staff in the town, having donation buckets, selling programmes, joining spot the stranger, people coming forward to marshal barriers and car parks, the harbour office and sailing club helping out with the raft race, lighting committee for lighting the Buttlands, GJL animal feeds for lending three lorries and vehicles for the parade, Diane Pink and friends preparing the carnival float for the Carnival Queen and attendants. Judges helping on Carnival Day to judge all the classes. Holkham helping out in many ways with the bike ride, sandcastle comp, classical sleep over sorry,,,,, concerton Sunday, access and help with beach workshops, beach party, and hopefully the continuation of the very kind car park money donation, which over the last two years has been over £20,000.

The approx. cost of the carnival week is now well over £60,000. To cover bands, safety, insurance, rent, entertainers, set up costs, hire of marquees, hire of venues, waste bins, toilets, trailer and stage hire, gazebos and ladies of the committee weekly bar bill,

A big thank you to Carole for all her hard work being treasurer, taking and sorting the finances and making sure floats are issued for the events. A job that never gets noticed, as it all happens away from the events, but a big thank you from us all.

Most of the smaller events have their costs covered by sponsorship but the larger events are only partly sponsored with the shortfall being made up with bucket collections and raffles.

The raffles work very well, held on the film and music nights, a big thank you to all who donate, and the helpers that walk through the audience

While going through our thank you list, we cant miss out Cy, our very colourful cameraman, a great ambassador for Wells Carnival and he is always there for a supportive word to the committee.

Thank you to Cy and David Jagger for taking the pictures and putting them in the shop window promoting the week.

On to the week: or before the week even started.

The Carnival Clay Pigeon Shoot, this was a new event for the committee and all went very well, the idea was brought to the committee from Podge, a recently new committee member, with the hard work that Podge put in, before during and after, made the day a great success. This is an event that will grow and becoming a firm favourite in the week.

This year the weather was very kind, the country basked in hot sunshine through June and July until the early evening of July 27th , yes start of carnival, the heavens opened, hail and rain covered the town, we were so pleased to hear the rest of the week would be great and sunshine came and stayed for the carnival. As we know Wells is not an easy place to stay and park in Carnival week so well done Sunshine.

The week has over 100 events throughout the town, old favourites mixed in with new.

Seven nights of live music and entertainment

The first Saturday was bingo day, with the childrens and adults games being held in the marquee, while the numbers were being called out the first of our many live bands were having sound checks on the Buttlands, Ricky Solo started off the night and Ruby Rollers were the main act, a great way to start the week of live music.

Sunday was, as in recent years, Fete Day, this year held on the Buttlands, a good old fashioned family day, we also crowned the Carnival Queen during the Fete and a big thank you to Bronwyn for her hard work and support during the week.

Highlight of the day was the Tug of War competition, in its second year, and was a great success. The Golden Fleace won the event with the other teams very keen for next year and training will take place in early summer. With the Wells Fire Crew saving my house recently they have already been crowned 2019 champions.

In the evening we had live music from three acts as part of our 'The Next Big Thing'

night, another memorable night on the Buttlands. Evenings of live music when we have two bands are hard enough to manage and make sure the sound is spot on. But this night we asked the amazing sound guys, Peter, Shaun and Phil to look after three acts, once again they made it look so easy, we are very grateful for the boys support, they have been a great help to the committee and work very hard in the week.

Few people realise these guys each take a week off work to work even harder for carnival and only charge expenses, which is usually promptly spent on more kit.

The week was full of fantastic events to appeal to all ages, All the planning in the winter and spring months had paid off, the events went well and were so well attended.

The weeks events are where the committee do so very well, as one is finishing, one is starting, one is being prepared, while another has finished for the year and put back in the carnival store for another year.

Tuesday was the now so very popular Food & Craft event on The Buttlands, busier every year, an event firmly marked on the counties food and drink calendar.

The lovely summer weather, visitors, stall holders and entertainers make it a fantastic show case day. Events I go to in the year, run by paid professional staff don't put on days as well organised as we do.

A massive thank you to Paula, Pete, and Fran for organising, this event and also the stalls on Fete Day and Carnival Day, not an easy task, to deal with the stall holders,

A task made even harder when I try to help.

Friday night brought the live music back to the Buttlands and The Los Palmas 6 brought more Madness than we normally bring. Over 4000 people danced in their baggy trousers. Most of the audience took their children and rubbish with them, some left rubbish but with the help of the friends of the committee the Buttlands was soon cleared. We as a committee hope to do more to help tackle the war against plastic and will be looking at increasing recycling next year.

On to Carnival Day - We all had an early start, arranging stall holders, laying out the arena, putting up and placing marquees, then when Shirley comes moving them again, then moving again, only to go and move them to the place they first were - we are all very relieved when Dick Hutchinson arrives. Dick compares the day and takes so much pressure off Shirley and myself. A big thank you to Dick.

Just after lunch the fancy dress entries start arriving

The committee is always amazed at the remarkable costumes and floats on show and are so grateful to the people that put so much time and effort to dress up and join the parade. The parade will go down as one of the best, with the costumes being match by the support and cheers on the parade route. Just brilliant.

The parade is another area the committee need to discuss and have concerned about. With the safety of the audience and the fancy dress entries. The day is now getting so big now we need to look at the way we leave and return to the Buttlands and the parade route is safe. The Police are very pleased with our safety event plan and how we plan events but we need to make sure we are ahead and run a thorough risk assessment.

Carnival Day is a great day for the town and the community, family and friends heading back and joining in, grownups bringing their children back to star in the carnival they were in, a brilliant atmosphere,

Carnival Day is, in my opinion, the best day of the week, a blue print of how a town should put on a carnival, just brilliant

The parade leaves the Buttlands at 3 pm sharp and heads up Mill Road to go round the town, All floats have pink buckets to collect for the grants we are making tonight.

The committee has added to that figure and so we are pleased to give away well over £7000 this year

Throughout the week different clubs and organisations held events promoting themselves and raising money. With not too much hard work, and sometimes with our help, these amounts can be raised

Heritage House raised just over £500, Scarborough House £500, Wells Primary PFA £1500, Runners Next the Sea raised £334 (shared between themselves & the Wells Maritime Trust). Wells Town Bowls £200, Drop in Club £323, Elsmiths Bowls Club iro £300, Club Carole's holiday fund £713

towns bowls club, tennis, croquet and the sailing club held open days to encourage new members.

All of the groups and more go towards making the carnival week so special, everybody is welcome to get involved.

Please come along and join in, over 20,000 people come to our events, they can't all be wrong

That's the end of my little speech, I am very proud of the week we put on in August and thank you to all that helped and to the committee, very well done

Thank You Pat Weston, Chair

And later on the agenda we will hold an Election of Committee – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary & Treasurer – we will need a proposer and a seconder for each. Also this is your chance to join the committee