



WELLS CARNIVAL LTD CHAIRMANS REPORT 2019

Before I give my report I would like to say a big thank you to Sue, Abi and the Reverend Woodruff. They have very kindly let us use the Gordon Barrett Hall tonight and their very kind help in Carnival Week.

The committee is very lucky to have built a strong bond with Sue, Abi and Neil over the last few years and with the marquee in the grounds we now have a second venue for music events and workshops through the week. After this years successful carnival week 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 form the bar has been a big help for the carnival funds. It's a lovely venue run by lovely people and drinks and sandwiches are very much appreciated

My Report

I have always been very proud to be Wells Carnival Committee chairman. But this year I was even a little prouder as we were awarded the EDP 'Best Family Event in Norfolk & Suffolk', an amazing achievement to say we are all volunteers and up against the big boys in the tourism category. Well done the town and the committee.

The committee has roughly 40 members, and a rough lot they are too!! All playing a very active part in organising 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 that way. 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.

If anybody here would like to join us, you choose the level of commitment and time you wish to give, leading up to the week and during the week, it's a great way to meet people and 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 are "all hands on deck" 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.

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.

The Carnival Committee is now working with, and being watched over by the Safety Advisory Group, which is based at the Norfolk County Council Offices in Cromer. They set rules and guidance for events such as ours, we have to submit Traffic Plans, Parade details and routes and procedures for any emergency's. We need to be ready for all events. From a lost phone to a terrorist attack, although the parking problems in Wells in summer would deter any attack!! In addition we supply risk assessments and discuss the events with local Police and Fire officers.

The Carnival Parade is the event that has to be so safe, with the number of people watching and joining in the parade, walking or on the floats. Once again the event past with no incidents. Well done all involved.

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.

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. 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 programs, joining spot the stranger, people coming forward to marshal barriers^[SEP]and car parks, the harbour office and sailing club helping out with the raft race^[SEP]lighting committee for lighting the Buttlands, GJL animal feeds for lending three^[SEP]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^[SEP]with the bike ride, sandcastle comp, classical concert, on 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 three years has been over £30,000.

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, and Carole's holidays!

But 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. Carole's job was made even harder this year with the closure of Barclays Bank. We now have hand held card machines to help with larger purchases.

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.

Also a big thank you to Jo, Marie and Paul for running the bar this year, another great way we raise money. With Jo, Marie and Paul we were also very lucky to have their children help in the week. A big thank you to Henry, Ellie and Kieron. Committee members of the future we hope.

While going through our thank you list, we can't 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. Also Simon helped Cy out at covering the events and taking pictures. Thank you to Cy and David Jagger for taking the pictures and putting them in the shop window promoting the week.

Before we head to the weeks breakdown can I say a big big thank you to Elisa and Fran for all their hard work before during and after the week with social media. Some of us use it, some don't, and some would if they could! But there is a lot of people that do use it. A great way of filling empty seats, telling people of changes and sending fantastic pictures on Insta do dah, Whats app, snap crap and face ache. Thank you Fran and Elisa.

On to the week:

This year the weather wasn't the best, but properly the best week in the summer, very hot, before the week, then cooler after the week. Rain tried to stop play but all events went ahead and so very well attended.

The week has over 100 events throughout the town, old favourites mixed in with new. A rock n roll night on the first Friday started off the week and the first of seven nights of live music on The Buttlands or in the marquee.

On Saturday the two main events were held in the harbour, the the second year of the Duck Race and the annual Raft Race. Strong winds and a fast incoming tide added to the fun at the start of both events.

The ducks decided to leave the starting marshals and make a mad dash for the finish line, all the ducks looked fantastic and a big thank you to Simon Neale and Paula and Pete, for thinking of this new idea last year, and continuing it this year. This event is now a firm favorite in the week and we look forward to new duck designs next year.

With the raft race, some of the rafts made a mad dash to everywhere but the finish line. The fast flowing tide made the course tricky but the large crowd watching enjoyed the rafts set off, some forward, some backwards, one downwards and the rest heading towards the harbour. This event is growing, fifteen rafts this year, we are so pleased on the numbers and we hope it continues to grow. The quay was packed to see the winning raft cross the finishing line near the Albatros.

A big thank you to the Sailing Club for they help during the day and for providing a bar and bbq. A lovely venue for the day and the presenting of the awards for the Duck and Raft Race.

In the evening the rain kept the numbers down at the beginning but the Buttlands was soon filling up, the people that did arrive were spoilt with the two amazing acts on The Buttlands. First we had Eloise Prouse, an amazing violinist, followed by Adam Chandler and We Light It Up. Both bands lit up a grey night and all that come had a good night. The merchandise stall was, as all nights, very busy. A big thank you to the committee for manning the stall and the raffle ticket sellers, that help to raise money towards our costs.

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 Kelly for her hard work and support during the week. We have been very lucky in recent years but Kelly has been one of the best, more of an ambassador for the committee, even if she did cheat at the race we had on Fete Day, shocking !!!

We continued to hold the Produce Show, this event appeals to locals and we had great displays in all categories. A lovely event for all ages. We did have one problem when one lady thought it was the dog show and came second in the allotment section with her three year old collie. Highlight of the day was the Tug of War competition, in its Third year, and was a great success. Well done Moff for refereeing the event.

The Carnival Committee team won the cup this year, the fire crew was disqualified for pushing. It's a growing event and we hope more teams get involved. Even though the fire crew didn't win, they should have been crowned champions as they paid an emergency visit to my house, saved my old house and have already paid one visit to my new house. One more visit and they say I will start receiving their mail.

In the evening we had live music from The Mersey Beatles and Annika Rands, Annika singing songs from Iconic Female Singers and the boys from Liverpool going through the playlist of the band celebrating 50 years of amazing music. Shirley was seen several times running into the green room shouting Wont you pleeeeee pleeeeee help me.

This will be a good time to thank the amazing sound guys, Peter, Shaun and Phil, once again they make 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.

All the events are listed in the fantastic programme, a massive thank you to Sara Philips and Shirley for all their hard work in compiling the programme and arranging the sponsorship. All this happens before the week starts. A very hard job for both and one that has so much pressure, Thank you Shirley and Sara.

Once again, Hazell Ashley designed the programme cover, thank you Hazell

The events throughout the week are all very popular and this is 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.

At events that I go to in the year, around the county being run by paid professional staff don't put on days as well organised as we do. And nowhere near as friendly. A massive thank you to Paula, Pete, and Fran for organizing, 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 irock were superb and had the crowd dancing and singing, the finish time was 10.40 and at just before 11 they had finally stopped playing, there was this really nice bloke that kept saying, go on, one more.

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 –

This is the first time in recent years we haven't had Dick Hutchings helping to compare Carnival Day. King Kenny stepped in and in some ways Dick was still with us, Kenny did a great job holding the day together - thank you Kenny

Just after lunch the fancy dress entries start arriving. The committee is always amazed at the remarkable costumes and floats on show and is 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 matched by the support and cheers on the parade route. Just brilliant.

All the work planning with the Safety Advisory Group helped to make the day and the parade go very well. The parade weaved through the town very safely and there were no problems apart from two flamingoes having inflation problems.

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.

Just before we head to the handing out the monies stage can I say a massive thank you Suzanne and Lillian for all their help at the carnival store. These ladies keep the store tidy one carnival to the next and then sort it when we bring things back from the Buttlands.

The committee has added to that figure and so we are pleased to give away well over £8000 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, large amounts can be raised.

Just to prove this, the amazing Wells primary pfa - (who I believe only have 3 members) raised over £1500 during the week –doing bingo, candy floss and popcorn, they also helped with catering at the Cley Pigeon shoot.

The towns bowls club, tennis and the sailing club held open days to encourage new members. Carnival is a great way to promote your club.

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

Another award please!!

Thank You - Pat Weston, Chair Wells Carnival Ltd.,