

Reading Community Carnival

"Bringing the Sun and a Smile to the Thames Valley"



Annual Report

30th September 2007

Year Ending 30th September 2007

Reading Carnival Committee 2007

Patricia Alleyne
Chairperson

Stuart Kennedy
Vice Chair

Donna Kellman
Secretary

Ros Reid
Treasurer

Patricia Cutting
Public Relations

Committee Members

Kendal Falconer

Debbie Butler

Jay Butler

Veronica Wynter

Co-opted - Polly Falconer

Sponsors 2007



<http://www.readingcarnival.org.uk/>

Year Ending 30th September 2007

Chairperson's Report

This year has been extremely challenging but also at the same time rewarding.

- Challenging in that in the history of carnival, we could not have foreseen the difficulties we faced this year. I have never experienced severe weather conditions and the issues it presented, but with the support of local authorities and the carnival committee the procession was allowed to take place.
- Rewarding in that we held the 1st Southeast Regional Conference which was a great success the evening closed with music and dance. On Carnival day that despite the conditions the true spirit of carnival carried on. With the severe weather conditions decisions had to be made very quickly. Cancelling the event was not an option for us as the coaches from the Isle of Wight and the coaches from London had called to say that they had already left and there were a number of children in their party. Some of the costumes had taken almost a year to complete so people wanted to brave the weather and what a fantastic sight it was to see the procession leaving the park.
- This year has been a learning curve and we will use the experience to review all issues relating to carnival and implement any recommendations once the safety team meeting debrief has taken place.

I was surprised by the attendance on the road when the floats went out, despite the conditions the people of Reading showed the true spirit of carnival by coming out and supporting those who braved the weather. As the local papers said what severe weather this **Carnival was hot**, I would like to thank you all who braved the weather.

To our sponsors Newmont Travel, Asda Tilehurst, SAS International on behalf of the committee we thank you once again for supporting us. Also special thank you to Veronica Caribbean Corner for the encouragement on the day, at 6.00am in the morning the first stall holder to arrive and set up. Her words were I am cooking regardless of the weather. We thank you for your continual support and sponsoring our hospitality refreshments.

Once again Hillman ran our workshop where beautiful costumes were made, and we even had one of BBC Radio Berkshire presenters Louise Chandler attending the workshops who made a lovely costume which she wore on carnival day.

For the first time ever we held a Prince and Princess Event, which was well attended, everyone had great fun especially seeing the adults playing musical chairs and the children judging. Our King and Queen dance was spectacular and to see the young people taking part and the pride on their faces showed the hard work that went into making their costumes. Congratulations and well done to all who took part. Special thanks to Ranikett School, the Ladies from Raniket Coffee Morning Club and Dee Road Fire Station who's theme for their float was health eating. We look forward to working together for carnival 2008.

I, personally, would like to thank the team of dedicated committee volunteers, and a special thank you to Debi Daniels and her team for the help and support in making carnival a

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success. I hope we can build on what we have achieved this year and make carnival a community event and attract more sponsors in the future.

To you, the community, I must re-iterate that we need your support more than ever. We hope that those of you who are able to spare a little time will help to make costumes, come to work shops and get involved in carnival, become a committee member.

I would like to say a special thank you to the outgoing committee and wish the new committee all the best for the coming year.

Patricia

*Patricia Alleyne
Chairperson (2007)*



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Secretary's report

This year we had a good range of pre-carnival events:

Costume workshops - held at the Mapp Centre this year, some brilliant designs were brought to life. Philbert's expertise was invaluable.

Prince and Princess Event - this was also held at the Mapp Centre. This was a well attended family event - which included refreshments, music by Family Connection, games and a showcase of children's carnival costumes.

Carnival King and Queen Dance - held at the Town hall. This event was spectacular; the judges had a very tough job on their hands to select just one king and queen. The creativity displayed on the night was amazing - it was clear to see that a lot of hard work and effort had been made.

Carnival 2007

We had the worst weather imaginable - cold, windy and miserable but the most beautiful procession! It was my first time walking the procession route, and I really enjoyed it. You could really feel the carnival spirit on the streets of Reading.

This years procession was a fantastic sight, the die-hard carnivalists braved the wind and the rain to get everyone in the carnival mood.

We had a variety of participants from Ugly bugs on bikes, to majorettes, rag waving Grenadians, whining Trinis, a selection of Berkshires radio stations; BBC Radio Berkshire, 210 FM, Festival Radio, community groups; The Mosaic group - pounding Reading's ears with drum and bass, Fire and rescue teams from Tilehurst, classic American cars, drumming bands, steel bands, mass bands..... A fusion of music, culture and costumes!



Well done to all who participated and supported the procession. Most of the participants who took part in the procession were Berkshire based but others travelled to Reading from London and even the Isle of Wight!

Back in the park, the hospitality tent was ever busy - almost everyone wanting a glass of Pat's famous Rum Punch!

A special thank you goes to our wonderful sponsors Newmont Travel, the local press, the stallholders and to all those who braved the elements and came out to support the carnival.

Donna Kellman
Secretary

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Conference Report



The First South East Regional Carnival Networking Event was held on Thursday 8th March 2007. This was commissioned by the Arts Council England (ACE) who approached Reading Community Carnival Committee and asked us whether we could host the event. As Reading was about to celebrate 30 years of carnival and it is easy to get to by public transport, it seemed appropriate that we take up the challenge.

Following a meeting with ACE, the committee appointed me as Project Manager. ACE had already decided that 21 South St, an arts venue in central Reading, would be the best place to hold the event.

The purpose of the event was to bring together “Carnivalists” from all over the South East. This would provide an opportunity to share ideas, discuss relevant topics, set up a South East Regional Networking Forum and have fun. ACE provided us with regional contacts for our target audience and we added our own.

The Committee was given a Budget of £8825 plus ticket sales, to cover the cost of the event. At the first meeting ACE gave us an outline of what they felt the day should look like. The outline included possible workshops, presentations and entertainment. It was important that the day reflected the range of carnivals in the South East including traditional English carnivals, community carnivals and Caribbean carnivals.

With the outline provided, I worked with the committee to design the publicity, make contacts, draft the programme and allocate the budget. The committee decided that the day should be fast and lively, reflecting the mood of carnivals. We wanted to use every available space at the venue and we decided that it should be decorative.

There were displays from a number of groups including an elaborate display of costumes from the Isle of Wight. There were also keynote speakers on topics such as Police & Licensing, The Role of the Press, Funding and Development and Opportunities for 2012.

There were 4 workshops which were allocated 20 minutes each. These were:

<http://www.readingcarnival.org.uk/>

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	Title	Facilitator
1	National Carnival Centre	Luton Carnival Trust
2	History of Calypso	Admiral Jack (AJ's Calypso Tent)
3	Reading Community Carnival	The Committee
4	Carnival Education	IOW & Slough Council

These were repeated after a short break to enable delegates to attend 2 workshops. There were over 80 delegates signed in and some that joined us later. The event ran from 11am to 11pm with a range of entertainment to complete the evening. Morris Dancers, Costume Dances, Steel Bands and a Soca band kept us dancing from 7.30pm.

As a result of the event, Reading Carnival Committee was pleased to welcome a number of new groups to its carnival in May. Despite the weather we had visitors from Luton, The Isle of Wight and London. They were each represented at the event. A full report including photos and details of the finance will be available shortly. The committee would like to thank the Arts Council England for giving us the opportunity and funding to host the event, the speakers and workshop facilitators, the groups who provided an amazing display of carnival arts and projects, the caterers, Reading Borough Council and the staff at 21 South Street. We also like to thank the delegates for joining us in what really was an enjoyable and informative event.

Polly Falconer
Project Manager

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Conference Income and Expenditure

	£	
Income		
Conference Grant	8,825	
Conference Tickets	154	
Total Income		<u>8,979</u>
Expenses		
Catering	1,047	
Entertainment	3,095	
Photography	50	
Postage	9	
Printing	473	
Project Management ¹	1,500	
Speaker Expenses	892	
Staff Costs ²	680	
Stationary	89	
Venue Decoration	336	
Venue Hire	520	
June Consultation Meeting	89	
Total Expenses		<u>8,780</u>
Income less Expenses		<u>199</u>

¹ Project Managers – Polly Falconer, Patricia Alleyne

² Conference Support Staff – Milton Alleyne, Ros Reid, Patricia Cutting, Kendel Falconer, Patricia Alleyne, Trevor Small, Hilman Philbert

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Costume Workshops

As a young girl growing up in Reading I used to watch the carnival procession passing the end of my street so I have memories of colourful floats, dancing and lots of music. Last year was a lot of fun when I was part of the procession but I didn't wear a costume so this year I thought I'd make more of an effort. It never occurred to me to get involved until Chairperson of the Carnival Pat Alleyne came on to my show in March where she invited me to the Carnival Workshop Classes to make a costume. I've always been into fashion and I thought it would be a great way to put my creative side to good use so I was glad to do accept the challenge.

At the time I thought it would be easy to put together a costume because it looks easy but luckily I had a lot of help. By attending the costume workshops I met Philbert who is the costume expert and he made me realise I had to think of a theme for the costume, the colours, the material that was needed and how I would wear the costume on the day. Seeing as I'm from Barbados heritage I wanted to make a costume that represents my culture so my costume will be in the same colours as the Bajan flag - blue, yellow and black. But I'll tell you – it was a lot harder than I imagined. Carnival costumes look beautifully colourful and effortless but this whole process made me appreciate how much work goes in to it.



I started the costume with 2 months to go and it was a tough few months to get everything done. Over time Philbert taught my how to stitch the costume together, decorate the head dress with feather's, gold card and sequins. My designs for the costume were difficult because I had so many ideas but I was given the idea by Philbert to customise a top that I liked so I could make it fit the theme. It was yellow and blue to fit the theme of the Bajan flag. For the skirt I made a Bajan flag out of blue and yellow material that matched. Philbert said I had to make a standard. I'd never heard of this before - it's a symbol that summarises your costume - you hold it as you march along in the procession. I decided to go with the trident symbol that appears on the Bajan flag.

So after 2 months the costume finally came together and I was ready for the big day. The costume classes gave me so many ideas and inspiration for my costume next year - but I've learnt my lesson...to start the whole thing earlier!

Louise Chandler

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Treasurer's Report



I must admit that as I stood in Prospect Park at 7.00am in the cold with the rain pelting down and the wind blowing I thought that carnival day was going to be a complete washout. But I underestimated the strength of the carnival spirit! Everyone who turned up seemed determined to enjoy themselves despite the weather. The procession was tremendous and even though we could not erect the stage for the live show because of the high winds the DJ's from Choice FM kept the crowd jumping until 7.00 pm. Well done everyone!

Obviously the weather has adversely effected or financial position but having built up a small cash reserve over the last few years the committee is able to meet all commitments this year. The committee will investigate the cost of insurance to cover the fixed costs of staging Carnival this coming year.

Carnival was again awarded an Arts Council Grant to improve the artistic content of Carnival. A series of costume making workshops were run in the weeks leading up to Carnival Day, and contributions were made to Steel and Mas Bands taking part in the procession. The grant was also used to cover some of the costs of staging the Prince and Princess evening which was completely free to every one who attended.

We have an excellent working relationship with the Arts Council and were honoured to be asked to organise and host the 1st Regional Carnival Networking Event in March. The event was staged within the budget agreed with the Arts Council with a small surplus earmarked for costs of staging or attending future Regional Consultation meetings.

As this year was the 30th year of Reading Community Carnival the committee felt it was appropriate to stage a Carnival King and Queen Gala at Reading Town Hall. Although previous feedback had indicated that the community wanted the return of the King and Queen Gala, the attendance was pretty poor. However this did not prevent the contestants from putting on a fantastic show and the audience really showed their appreciation.

Several groups from outside Reading joined Reading Carnival for the first time this year and enjoyed it so much are planning to come again. The 31st Carnival could be even bigger and better, especially as the weather is going to be better than this year. Well it couldn't possibly be worse!

Ros Reid
Treasurer (2007)

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Income and Expenditure

	Notes	Year 2006/07	Year 2005/06 £
INCOME			
Grants	1	19,105	10,280
Donations	2	1,625	1,090
Activities	3	8,085	11,265
		6	9
		28,820	22,645
EXPENDITURE			
Workshops - Tutor/Materials/Room Hire		2,115	1,894
Mas/Steel Bands		2,379	1,259
Prizes		725	500
Administration		282	170
Security		3,648	3,496
Activities (Carnival)	4	5,090	8,598
Activities (Dance)	5	2,760	936
Activities (Fund Raising)	6	0	120
Activities (Conference)		8,780	0
Activities (Children's Event)		471	0
Activities (AGM)		10	30
Activities (Launch)		0	20
Activities (Presentation Evening)		0	61
Returned Deposits		100	1,050
Refunds		3,850	0
Advertising		26	183
Printing		188	222
First Aid		971	1,880
Insurance		350	350
Charitable Donation		450	0
Bank Charges		0	10
Total Expenditure		32,195	20,779
Surplus/(Deficit)		(3,375)	1,866

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Income and Expenditure Notes

Note		Year 2006/07 £	Year 2005/06 £
1	Grants		
	Reading Borough Council - Core Funding	5,280	5,280
	Arts Council Lottery Grant	5,000	5,000
	Arts Council - Regional Conference	8,825	0
		<u>19,105</u>	<u>10,280</u>
2	Donations		
	Newmont Travel	1,625	1,040
	Store Vouchers	0	50
		<u>1,625</u>	<u>1,090</u>
3	Activities		
	Conference Tickets	154	0
	Children's Festival	0	10
	Carnival Dance	530	291
	Carnival Day	6,290	8,681
	Carnival Bar	1,110	2,284
		<u>8,085</u>	<u>11,265</u>
4	Carnival Day		
	Marquee	930	1,133
	Live Stage and Acts	775	1,178
	PA System	909	911
	Car Park Attendants	1,100	1,050
	Carnival Bar - Stock	850	989
	Carnival Bar - Assets	0	73
	Photography	400	391
	Hospitality	5	23
	Events License	121	100
	Site Clean-up	0	250
	Generators	0	2,500
		<u>5,090</u>	<u>8,598</u>
5	Carnival Dance		
	Hall Hire & Decoration	1,560	266
	Security	0	120
	Sound System	300	0
	DJ	0	350
	Entertainment/MC	900	201
	Catering	0	0
		<u>2,760</u>	<u>936</u>
6	Fund Raising		
	Valentine's DJ	0	120
		<u>0</u>	<u>120</u>

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Balance Sheet

		Year 2006/07 £	Year 2005/06 £
	Notes		
Current Assets			
Debtors	1	2,199	500
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>3,965</u>	<u>7,440</u>
		6,164	7,940
Creditors: Falling due within 1 year	2	<u>(1,500)</u>	<u>(2,750)</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		4,664	5,189
Creditors: Falling due after more than 1 year		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>4,664</u>	<u>5,189</u>
Capital and Reserves			
Share Capital		0	0
Revenue Reserves	3	<u>4,664</u>	<u>5,189</u>
		<u>4,664</u>	<u>5,189</u>

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Balance Sheet Notes

Notes	Year 2006/07 £	Year 2005/06 £
1 Debtors		
Arts Council Lottery Funding - Final Payment	500	500
Newmont Travel	1,625	0
Bar Sales	74	0
	<u>2,199</u>	<u>500</u>
2 Creditors: Falling due within 1 year		
RBC - Park Clean-up (estimated)	0	250
RBC - Generators (estimated)	0	2,500
Reading Town Hall	1,500	0
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,750</u>
3 Reserves		
Revenue Reserves b/f	5,189	2,973
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(3,375)	1,866
Generators - creditor write-off	2,500	0
Unpresented Cheques	100	100
Park Clean-up paid by RBC	250	250
	<u>4,664</u>	<u>5,189</u>

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Summary of Financial Activity

	Year 2006/07	Year 2005/06
	£	£
Income	28,815	22,635
Expenses	<u>32,195</u> (3,380)	<u>20,779</u> 1,857
Other Operational Income	<u>0</u> (3,380)	<u>0</u> 1,857
Interest Receivable	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u><u>(3,375)</u></u>	<u><u>1,866</u></u>

Chairperson:

Mrs. Patricia Alleyne Date:

Secretary:

Miss Donna Kellman Date:

Treasurer:

Mrs. Rosalind Reid Date: