Barnstaple Carnival

Be Part Of It

7 Pages of information to help you join in the fun!

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Barnstaple Carnival

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WIN £50 CLASS WINNERS

ENTRY CLASSES

CLASS1 BEST MOTORISED ENTRY The Percy Brend Memorial Trophy & Certificate

CLASS 2 BEST ADULT ENTRY John White Memorial Cup & Certificate

CLASS 3 BEST JUNIOR ENTRY Carnival Cup & Certificate

CLASS 4 BEST PERFORMANCE ENTRY Carnival Cup & Certificate

CLASS 5 BEST VISITING ENTRY Carnival Cup and Certificate

CLASS 6 BEST TRADE ENTRY Certificate

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THE WINNERS OF CLASSES 1-5 WILL AUTOMATICALLY COMPETE FOR THE

Jo Thompson Memorial

SUPREME CHAMPION TROPHY

THE WINNER'S NAME WILL BE ENGRAVED ON THE PERPETUAL TROPHY

ENTRY FORMS:

www.barnstaplecarnival.org.uk/application-forms/

Welcome ...

and thank you for your interest in Barnstaple Carnival 2026 ... back again this year in all its colourful splendour.

Following the unfortunate weather related problems of 2025, the team of willing volunteers are keen to bring the streets of our great ancient borough back to life by repeating the crowning glory of the 2024 Barnstaple Fair Week ... but just like previous years ... we can't do it alone!

WE NEED YOU

our great Barnstaple Community!

Wether you're a community group, sports team, majorette troupe, dance school, school or uniformed organisation ... the list is endless ... our short message is ... **TAKE PART!** ... we will do everything we can to help you!

Throughout the next couple of pages you will find some great ideas of how to go about getting your entry together and hopefully find the things you need to know about on the day together with details of how to access the important entry form.

Remember you can be anything for a day! ...

LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD!

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for more information

info@barnstaplecarnival.org.uk

barnstaplecarnival.org.uk

Who can take part?

the answer to that is 'pretty much anyone!"

- ADULT & CHILDREN'S CLUBS
- UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS
- SPORTS CLUBS
- DANCE & THEATRE GROUPS
- BANDS & MAJORETTES
- COMMUNITY GROUPS
- SCHOOLS & COLLEGES
- FAMILIES
- SOCIAL GROUPS
- VISITING ENTRIES AND CARNIVAL ROYALTY

Do you have to live in Barnstaple?

Nope! ... we welcome everyone to enter from surrounding towns and villages. If you have an entry from a previous carnival ... show it off again ... or if you are creating one for a future procession later in the year ... give it a "dry run!"

What class do I enter?

A list of classes is on the inside cover, one of which you will slot into. There is a class for Motorise Floats, Adult and Junior classes to include walking entries or decorated bicycles or mobility scooters. Motorised entries that can include a decorated trailer, a pick up truck, or if you are really ambitious then the route allows for your fabulously decorated articulated vehicle to negotiate the streets. *(See the Small Print section)*

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Creating your entry ...

You will need to decide whether you are going to walk the route, follow a decorated trailer towed by car or van, ride a bike or mobility scooter or ride the route and entertain the crowd on the back of a wagon ... or maybe you are a majorette troupe who wish to perform to the crowds en-route.

Entry Forms can be found at www.barnstaplecarnival.org.uk/application-forms.

Pick a theme ...

Think about what you are looking to portray ... is your entry topical (ie: in the news or about a forthcoming event, VJ Day etc.) Will it be giving the public an insight into what you do, what a way to raise your profile! Are you putting on a show in the coming months, have you just finished a production ... maybe parts of your costume and scenery stocks can be used as part of your entry.

Putting it together ...

Get together with some like minded people and decide how big and how complicated your entry will be. Don't underestimate the amount of time it will take to put it all together. Will there be music? Will there be dancing? ... if so take time to rehearse all these elements prior to Carnival day. Try to avoid the Saturday morning rush, leaving the creation of your entry to the last minute! ... this can lead to some anxious moments and we want everybody to have a great day ... **all day!**

(We appreciated that some haulage contractors can only offer limited windows for when trailers are available and we very much appreciate their support, so try and get some rough measurements and build floats with pre-constructed elements. Remember floats using lorries usually need stripping down after the parade).

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If you are using music remember you will need some sort of amplifier ... a cd player or similar will not carry the music above the noise of the crowd.
If you are using an articulated vehicle please make sure you have ways to get on and off the vehicle safely and remember if entrants are riding the vehicles they must be secured to the vehicle or a barrier erected along the sides to ensure the safety of participants. *If you are thinking of using generators please see our small print pages.*

What can we use ...

... anything you like! Balloons, Bunting, Ribbons, straw bales for seating ... all of which can make a simple entry look colourful and give a real feel good factor to the awaiting crowds. You may wish to take a more elaborate approach building structures which are placed on the vehicle in keeping with your theme. In these cases please make sure that the structures are safe and that they are well secured to vehicle as the vehicles will need to approach and leave the carnival parade unaided. No one should travel to or from the event on the back of a lorry.

Who can we use?...

Local builders and small businesses have pick up trucks and trailers which they may be willing to loan for your entry. There are also local hauliers that maybe able to help you but please give them as much notice as you can as they will only have a limited availability. Try to leave their livery visible to maximise their advertising opportunities. Please remember that the drivers of these vehicles usually give up their Saturday evening to drive the parade voluntarily. Please make sure you thank them and allow them to get away promptly following the parade.

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The Small Print!

We can't provide a definitive list of do's and dont's but hopefully this list will help when it comes to enter your float for the Carnival.

Barnstaple Carnival Committee has an appointed Parade Marshall and it is their duty to ensure that all entries are safe and are of an acceptable standard. Any floats considered unsuitable for inclusion will not be allowed to participate in the Procession. We are all here to have fun, whilst remaining safe. We therefore offer you the following guidance to make your entry safe and enjoyable . Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have a question not answered here..

We would like to draw your attention to the following advice to help keep you, your group, and the general public safe on the day:

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please nominate an adult member of your group to be responsible for all aspects of safety, and to act as a single point of contact between your group and Carnival organisers both before and during the event. This person will be assumed as the main point of contact unless otherwise notified.

When arriving at or leaving the assembly area, it is your responsibility to provide adults to act as banksman to ensure the safety of everyone around the perimeter of your vehicle/float.

Although there is a first aid provision at the assembly point and at the rear of the procession, it is advisable to carry a small first aid kit. We would also suggest that some drinking water is readily available as the effects of dehydration can quickly develop during hot weather.

Children should have an adequate number of adult supervisors accompanying them at all times.

We discourage the crowds from throwing coins, as this can cause serious injury, and in return the spraying of water and throwing objects into the crowd is strictly prohibited.

The consumption of alcohol before and during the procession is strictly prohibited.

Please ensure any electrical items in use are fitted safely, waterproof and are suitable for outside use, remember light bulbs can get very hot. We also suggest that mains operated equipment be inspected before use.

Please ensure that you come equipped for the forecast weather conditions, sun screen and drinking water are recommended.

If there are any problems, we have stewards and police all along the procession route, and they are there to provide assistance. If there is an emergency dial 999 immediately.

PEDESTRIAN ENTRANTS

If you are wearing a large costume, be aware that the wind affect your balance. It is recommended to have somebody to help you navigate the route and monitor your fatigue. Remember, costumes are often flammable so stay away from sources of heat.

If you have children in your walking group, please keep them together and away from moving vehicles and ensure that you have enough adult helpers for the number of children in your party i.e. a ratio of 1 adult to 4 children.

MOTORISED FLOATS

Consideration must be given to avoid using flammable materials in the construction of your entry. A simple *match test* will highlight any of the materials you anticipate using on your float by testing with a naked flame.

You should be able to detach and secure parts of the construction of your float to allow for transportation to and from the event at normal highway speeds. You should be able to transport the float to and from the event without the need to drive at excessively slow speeds (causing an obstruction to the highway).

If you are going to have people on your float then a good rule of thumb for capacity would be to allow 1 square metre per person as a nominal load capacity. If they are seated, the seating structure should be secured in such a manner as to prevent the passengers from being thrown around should the vehicle have to brake abruptly during the procession.

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All vehicles should carry a suitable fire extinguisher. It is recommended that your float does no taller than 14 feet high. If this is exceeded then the height of your float must be easily adjustable should overhead obstructions occur.

Where power is supplied by a generator, then ideally this should be a diesel unit. A method to quickly shut down the unit and fuel system from the edge of the float should be accessble, avoiding the need to remove access panels etc to gain direct access to the unit. The generator should be manned by someone proficient in its operation at all times.

Adequate ventilation should be allowed to keep the unit cool and not allow a build up of heat to occur. You should not rely on a forward motion of the float to provide cooling air and you may choose to carry this unit on your towing vehicle. If you are using a generator, please take all necessary safety precautions when fuelling it, and store fuel away from sources of heat and in approved containers.

The vehicle or towing vehicle and trailer must be in a legal and roadworthy condition. The trailer must not exceed the maximum towing capacity of the towing vehicle.

The driver of the towing vehicle is responsible for the general safety of the vehicle, towing mechanism, break-away chain and general sturdiness of the float, they should also have adequate insurance cover. Anything that could fall off must be secured. The driver of the towing vehicle must have a clear view of the road ahead and both sides of the float at all times.

If there are people on the float, you should ensure they are safe while on the float, consideration should be given to ensure seats are securely attached, or adequate handrails fitted to prevent passengers and chairs falling from the float.

The driver should keep up with the procession and not allow significant gaps to form as can cause the spectators to spill on to the procession route.

The driver should pay particular attention to spectators trying to cut across the procession ahead of them, and crowding to the side.

The use of adults to walk alongside the float who can be clearly seen by the driver is recommended to provide an additional 'set of eyes' alongside the float as the procession route can be very busy at certain pinch points.

Nobody should ride on a float hanging over the edge, or go in between the towing vehicle and float when it is in motion. You should only climb onto or off your float until the vehicle is stationary.

Please try to keep your vehicle in the centre of the road during the procession and away from spectators.

We hope you have safe enjoyable visit to Barnstaple Carnival. By observing these simple recomendations, you will help us to keep it an incident free event. We look forward to seeing you on the day!!

All floats will be required to sign a injury liability waiver before they participate in the procession.

NOTE: You will be expected to sign a statement to the effect that your float complies with all the guidelines set out above. This will be a condition of entry at the event for your safety and that of the public attending the event.

REMEMBER ...
STAY SAFE!
HAVE FUN!

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