

# NEWSLETTER September 2012

## Welcome to the Carnival Archive Project: Norwich & Norfolk Newsletter!

### What's the project about?

The Carnival Archive is about celebrating the rich history of carnivals and street processions! We are collecting, capturing, preserving and sharing this strong heritage with an online archive that anyone can access.

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is concentrating on carnivals and street processions in the Eastern Region – Norwich and Norfolk, Southend, Northampton, and Luton.

The archive consists of photos, film, programmes, posters, flyers and all kinds of carnival memorabilia that have been donated by carnival enthusiasts, spectators, participants, organisers – basically anyone who has any interest in carnival and street processions! Carnival however is not just about the colourful, musical spectacle we see on carnival day it is also about the planning, skill and effort that goes on weeks and months before; the fun and the hard work which results in amazing costumes, floats, music and dance! We want to capture all this as well – costume designs, float designs, musical scores, correspondence, minutes from meetings. It's all about YOUR story of carnival!

Until April 2013 we will be collecting items for the archive and will be out and about at venues around Norfolk ready to scan in your carnival memorabilia and upload them onto the archive. You can even do it yourself! Just visit [www.carnivalarchive.org.uk](http://www.carnivalarchive.org.uk) and follow the instructions.

The archive is free for everyone and will also contain exciting specially created learning resources for both schools/colleges and community groups to take advantage of.



Norwich Hospital Carnival, June 1939.  
Photo: Norfolk County Council



## Meet the Norfolk Team

### Archive Co-ordinator – Cathie Davies (on right in picture).

Cathie's role is to raise awareness of the project, collect the archives and oral histories and upload them to the website.



Cathie says, “ I love carnivals! I have a long association with carnivals and street processions stemming from getting involved in my local church carnival when I was a child, to co-ordinating Norwich’s Lord Mayor’s Street Procession for Norwich City Council!”

Cathie is also the co-ordinator of the Norfolk Carnival Network – bringing together all carnival organisers and enthusiasts from around the county. “I love the way carnivals bring together the whole community and enjoy the way it allows people to act outrageously! I’m also partial to a bit of samba!”

### Learning and Outreach Officer – Kathryn Elliott (on left in picture)

“My role is to work with schools and community groups to develop and deliver fun and educational workshops based around carnivals and archives, and to generate downloadable resources for everyone to use,” says Kathryn.

“I have a degree in History & American Studies and a Masters in Museum Studies and so I’m into anything and everything heritage, museums and culture! I really enjoy working with young people and have previously worked as a Learning Support Assistant in a secondary school. The best part of my job is meeting lots of different people and thinking of creative ways to engage them in the wonderful world of carnival arts and heritage!”

Cathie and Kathryn are based at the Norwich and Norfolk Community Arts (NORCA) offices in Norwich and work part time.

## Phew! What a summer!

The team has spent an amazing summer visiting as many carnivals, street processions and events around Norfolk as possible – spreading the news about the archive and gathering items! We have met some really interesting people with some great stories to tell, from the lady who can remember giving birth at the old N & N Hospital to the sounds of the Samba band outside, to the Sheringham Carnival Queen who met her future husband when he was driving the lead car! We have met Mayors, Scottish pipers, ladies in red hats, bumble bees, a liquorice allsorts couple, several zombies, dragons, a horse dressed as an elephant, and Chewbacca!!



The Carnival Archive Team at Diss Carnival

Cathie and Kathryn and the project's fantastic team of volunteers have handed out 6,000 flyers, spoken to almost 3,000 people, taken 100s of photos and hours of film! We've also been gathering people's instant carnival memories on our travelling Memory Board – 'I saw a pirate boat with pretty bubbles bursting out', 'I enjoyed dancing in front of a big crowd and smiling and being the star person because I was the only boy', 'Drummers playing inside a huge metal dragon!', 'Memories of dressing up as a lion, a giant mini-roll and cruising in a giant lighthouse. GREAT FUN!!!' – were just some of the memories people left!

Our memories of our summer are of enthusiastic people, the kindness of those who helped us put up our gazebo and lent us tent pegs, the excitement of the crowds, the happy smiling faces, the numerous ice creams eaten, rain, wind and sandbags, but mostly of the support from organisers and members of the public for the project and the archive material we have been gathering.

Thank you everyone for making it a fantastic summer!

### **So, what's next?**

Now we are back in the office ready to start scanning, cataloguing and uploading the items we have already collected onto the archive. With our team of committed volunteers photographs, films and all types of memorabilia will be sorted into 'collections' and the archiving will begin in earnest.

Cathie is also setting up 'Collecting Days' at libraries, museums and coffee shops around the county inviting people to bring along their memorabilia to be scanned and to learn about how best to look after their own 'archives' – see our Facebook page for details about Collecting Days.

<http://www.facebook.com/CarnivalArchiveNorwichNorfolk>

Every Friday from 12<sup>th</sup> October until 14<sup>th</sup> December there will be someone available at the NORCA office between 10am and 2pm who can scan in your items/collections and give you archival advice – give Cathie a ring on 01603 760529 to make an appointment.

### **Learning & Outreach update**

#### **Early years session with staff and children at the Peapod Preschool.**

In preparation for their participation in the Lord Mayor's Street Procession this year we ran an activity morning for the children to make Olympic torches and/or laurel wreaths. We took along some hats and costume for them to try on which proved very popular – the children wore them all morning while taking part in the craft activities and were swapping amongst themselves so they could all have a try! In all, 23 children and 6 members of staff took part and made some fantastic wreaths and torches! A film documenting their Lord Mayor's Street Procession story will also be part of the archive.



Cawston Carnival Jubilee Celebration, June 1977.  
(Photo: North Walsham Historical Society)

## At the Library!

Family learning sessions in the Children's Library at the Norfolk & Norwich Millennium Library have been really fun and well-attended activities. Based around the topics from the Learning Resource Pack (a resource which is also available for self-use by holiday play-schemes or schools wanting to do carnival-related work independently), the Carnival Archive Project has been 'taking over' some of the library's Sunday is Fun Day afternoon family activity sessions. These informal free drop-in sessions have seen many children of all ages take part in carnival crafts from decorating flags and badges to mask- and crown-making! On the Children's Library notice boards you'll find posters not only advertising these sessions but also listing some of the carnival-related children's books to be found in Norfolk libraries!



Carnival royalty family session at the Library

Look out for the resource pack on the Carnival Archive website coming soon.

## More volunteers wanted!

Our team of volunteers are crucial to the running of this project and more volunteers are always needed to help collect and create the archive! Whether you're interested in archives, education, carnival, arts admin - our volunteering roles are a great way to learn new skills, meet new people, and have fun along the way! You even get your own orange archive T-shirt!

Contact Cathie at: [cathie@carnivalarts.org.uk](mailto:cathie@carnivalarts.org.uk) or on 01603 760529 for more information.



## Did you know...

... there are at least 17 carnivals and street processions that take place in Norfolk! See the NORCA website for more details - [www.norcaarts.co.uk](http://www.norcaarts.co.uk)

## Contact details

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