



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the Carnival organised by the Council?

No, the Carnival is organised by Thornbury Carnival C.I.C.. This is a registered company run by a properly constituted committee of volunteers.

2. How is the Carnival funded?

Thornbury Carnival is run by a group of volunteers who derive no personal financial gain. Its purpose is to promote the socio-economic standing of the greater Thornbury area through this annual event, which seeks to be as inclusive as possible of individuals and groups.

Thornbury Carnival Association, founded in 2009 became a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.) in 2012 and is registered at Companies House, Reg.No. 08472025. It is governed by a panel of Directors.

The Carnival is a self-funding event and raises income from a variety of sources:-

- Pitch Fees
- Local Authority or other awarding body Grants
- Sponsorship
- Admission charges

3. Does the Carnival give to charity?

Yes, the Carnival always has a nominated charity which is able to benefit from Parade kerbside collections. Previous years have seen generous donations being given to many local charities and organisations.

Each year, dependent upon the financial reserves, a decision will be made by the Carnival Committee as to the viability of making donations to local organisations that support the Carnival.

4. Does the Carnival have the right to charge admission to the Mundy Playing Fields?

In 1937, The Hon. Violet Mundy gave a sum of £6000 to the Parish Council for the purchase of the land now known as the Mundy Playing Fields (aka The Mundys). In her Last Will & Testament she bequeathed the property title to the Parish Council, empowering it to act as Trustee, as if it were the owner.

The Council allows the Carnival to charge an event entry fee. This fee goes towards dispersing event costs. Entry costs are reviewed each year and compare favourably with similar events held elsewhere in the area.

5. Why do charities have to pay pitch fees?

Pitch fees are levied on all stallholders with additional charges for power supply. This is the only fair and equitable way to deal with pitch allocation. We support each charity by both publicising and attracting large crowds to the event from which they can then benefit.

6. What happens to the Carnival income taken on the day?

The Carnival is a non-profit making organisation. That said, it does have significant running costs. The costs include items such as Licensing, Insurance, Signage, Banners, Health and Environment, Stage Erection, Seating and Table provision, Entertainment, Transport and Security.

We endeavour, where possible, to ensure that akin to any business we have a surplus over costs which will ensure the annual continuity of the Carnival. We are weather dependant and a large proportion of our expenditure arises in the build-up to the Carnival event. We therefore need a reserve to facilitate these charges.

7. How do you publicise the Carnival?

We use several media to get our message out to the general public. We also issue flyers at local events during the year.

In addition we send regular editorials for inclusion in MyThornbury.co.uk, Parish Magazines, Local Newspapers and BS35.

8. Does the Carnival have a Health & Safety Policy?

The Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) applies to organisation which employ five or more persons. The definition of employees is found in Section 53(1) of the Act and is described as a 'person contracted to work'. Thornbury Carnival C.I.C. does not therefore fall within the scope of the Act or its requirements. There are no specific guidelines applicable to the good order and running of a Carnival Event within the Act itself.

The Act does however highlight areas of best practice to be adopted in the work place. Acknowledging the legislation, Thornbury Carnival C.I.C. will make its best efforts to adopt the spirit of the Act where ever possible.

In pursuance of this, procedural measures, by way of Risk Assessments for the Carnival Parade and Carnival Field Entertainment, will be adopted. These will appear in the Thornbury Carnival Health and Safety Procedures.

9. Do you have the right to refuse entry to the Carnival?

The Carnival is an open access event held for the benefit of Thornbury and the surrounding villages. However the Carnival Committee (The Organisers) reserve the right to decline any application for participation considered not to be in the best interest of the Carnival.

Any application deemed to be in this category will be subject to the procedure laid down in the Thornbury Carnival Exclusion Procedure. The decision agreed by Thornbury Carnival Committee will be final.

10. Are my children safe at the Carnival?

Ultimately, your children are your responsibility, however the organisers of the Carnival offer free wristbands for all small children (collectable from the High Street entrance) so you can write your mobile telephone number in permanent ink. Providing the child is wearing the band and the number is legible an announcement can be made across the Carnival site.

We also have the facility for Lost Children, with a stand which is clearly marked in order for you to report a lost child, bring a lost child and collect a lost child. All Committee members carry a mobile radio so notification of a lost child happens very fast. As soon as a notification is received that a child is 'missing' a radio message is deployed and the exit points are closed until the child has been located.

11. How do we get to join-in and help with the Carnival organisation?

All volunteers are welcome. If you are interested in helping with the organising of this event please make contact by email to chairman@thornburycarnival.co.uk.

12. What is a C.I.C.?

Thornbury Carnival Association, as was founded in 2009, became a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.) in 2012 and is registered at Company House, Reg. No. 08472025, to which it submits annual accounts and pays Corporation Tax on any annual surplus of income over expenditure. A C.I.C. status confers limited liability on its Directors – there will be a maximum of 4, and has an asset lock which means that if it closes, its listed assets can be passed on only to another C.I.C. of comparable kind in a similar area.

13. What are the Friends of Thornbury Carnival (FoTC)?

This new organisation, set up in 2014, independent of the Carnival C.I.C., has its own Management Committee of seven persons comprised of representatives of the Carnival C.I.C., local traders and civic and voluntary services. It was established to raise funds over a rolling 3-year programme of commitment from local businesses. The sole aim of the FoTC is to channel funds as necessary to Thornbury Carnival C.I.C. to ensure the future and effective evolution of the Carnival, for the socio-economic benefit of the greater-Thornbury Community.