

CARNIVAL

ARCHIVE PROJECT



Looking at Archives



What is an archive?

An archive is a collection of historical records or the place in which they are located. It is made up of primary sources (original material which can include manuscripts, books, photographs, maps, plans, sound and moving images, and digital records), which are gathered around a place, institution, business, group, event, individuals, families, etc.

Why an archive?

The material in an archive has been selected for permanent or long-term preservation due to its enduring cultural, historical or evidentiary value. Archives preserve information for the future by accumulating it together in one accessible place. Archives provide a wealth of information and help to tell the story of our past while informing our future. They help to protect what might otherwise be lost.

Why a carnival archive?

The archive aims to preserve collections for the future and provide access to them in the present in order to inspire a deeper level of understanding, enjoyment and interest in the heritage of carnival, as well as raise the exposure and profile of carnival arts and carnival artists.

What is a digital archive?

The carnival archive is a completely digital archive. This means that the material in it has been either born digital (created in a digital format) or digitised (has been scanned or photographed). It also means that the archive can only be accessed online.

How can I use the archive?

There are many ways you can use the archive, for example: upload your own images/material related to carnivals and street processions in the east of England; browse through the pictures online; be inspired to get involved in carnival; or perhaps use the material to undertake your own research. See below for how you can use the pictures in the archive to find out more about carnival/street processions through time and how things change over time. Remember to look at both the carnival subject matter (costumes, floats, etc) but also the surroundings (people, buildings, etc.) to discover more about different times and places.

Three entrants with bicycles at the Northampton Carnival, 1890-1905

From the Northampton Chronicle & Echo, contributed by Northampton Museum & Art Gallery

Independent shops,
named after the
proprietors.

Every person in the
crowd is wearing a hat.
How many people
watching a carnival today
would be wearing a hat?



In the 19th Century gas
was still being used
for street lighting.

Dressing up as people
of another culture or
race seemed popular
in this picture.

Think about:

- 1) What is the context of the picture?
- 2) What was happening at the time?

Lord Mayor's Street Procession 2012, Norwich

Nationwide
chain of shops.

Use of technology
to record the event.



The costumes have
been designed
around a theme.

More informal scene.
The crowd are dressed
casually and are
participating (clapping,
waving flags, giving
money) and interacting
with those taking part.

Big barriers
reflect present day
security concerns.