

## NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the third newsletter  
from the Carnival Archive Project

Newsletter Date:

February 2013

### Going going....

The Carnival Archive Project is coming to an end. The current project funding runs out at the end of April 2013 but funding is being applied for to carry out the project across the whole of England. After April the website will still be available at the same address, meaning that the whole of the archive can still be looked at and enjoyed. However, it is likely that the active collecting part of the project will be put on hold so if there's anything you would still like to share with us then please get in touch before then, we'd love to hear from you!

### Recent additions to the archive:

The Chronicle and Echo Collection has been added to and we are very grateful for all their help. We now have almost 500 images spanning between 1957-1996, including lots of photographs of carnival queens throughout the years. The picture on the right is from the 1985 Northampton Carnival and shows Margaret Jones, Terin Lee and Half-Pint the pony.



Another fantastic addition to the archive has been from the Higginson Family. Fred Higginson was a bicycle maker who owned a shop in Grafton Street, Northampton. He loved to make wonderfully unusual bicycles, such as the Bedstead Bicycle and the Dustbin Bicycle. These bicycles were ridden by the Higginson Troupe, a hugely popular group of trick cyclists, in the Northampton Carnivals.

Some images of this group have been submitted to the archive by Higginson Troupe member George Twiselton but now, thanks to Fred's family, you can learn even more about this remarkable man's contribution to carnival.

### Oral Histories

We are now starting to add the oral histories that we have gathered to the online archive. These have provided a wonderful amount of information and been really enjoyable to collect. If you have not yet been interviewed but would like to take, part please get in touch. We would love to hear what you have to say and record it for future generations.

Oral history interviews can take place at a time and place of your choosing. The interview tends to last about ten minutes but it's usually preceded by a chat about the sort of things you are going to talk about. Once the interview has been recorded it is transcribed back at the office. A copy of this is then sent to you for you to check and approve. Only once you have said you are happy with it does it go online.

## Can you help?

1. At The Carnival Archive Project we're fascinated by the 'Big Heads' that used to appear in Northampton Carnival. We'd love to hear more about how and why they were made.

2. Do you know the name of this Carnival Queen (pictured right) or the year she was crowned? We believe it was some point in the 1960's but would like to know for sure. If you have a good memory and would like to help the project then there are several more photographs whose dates are uncertain. If you would like to help with this or have any information please contact **Charlotte Dickerson** on [charlotte@carnivalarts.org.uk](mailto:charlotte@carnivalarts.org.uk). Tel: **01582 437112**  
Postal address at bottom of page.



## Letters of Support

To help us evaluate the project and aid our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry on with the project we are looking for letters of support. If you have felt that being part of the Carnival Archive Project has been a positive experience then it would help us enormously if you could send us a letter or email telling us what you have gotten out of the experience.

## Upcoming events

### Northampton Heritage Gathering at Northampton Museum

As the Carnival Archive project ends in April we would like to invite you all to a special event at Northampton Museum on Saturday 6th of April 2013. This will be an opportunity for you to see some of the amazing things we have uncovered about Northampton Carnival over the past 18 months. We have also invited other local archives and heritage groups to share this event with us, so come and see some of their collections and learn about some of the wonderful heritage work that takes place within Northampton. The event is free, further details to be arranged.

### Here's One We Made Earlier!

The 2nd Carnival Archive Conference is being held on the 15th and 16th of March, 2013 at the UK Centre for Carnival Arts, 3 St. Mary's Road, Luton, LU1 3JA. The Conference will be a chance to learn about all the things that have been discovered during the course of the Carnival Archive Project and include talks and performances from Fiona Talbot from HLF, Mary Genis, John Fox, John Hegley and Ruth Tompsett. To book your tickets please email [conference@carnivalarts.org.uk](mailto:conference@carnivalarts.org.uk) or call 01582 437112. Tickets are free but a £15 refundable deposit is required.

### Carnival Collectors and the Memory Machine.

In March the Carnival Archive Project is teaming up with exciting new theatre company Fit To Burst to put on a performance about carnival and memory for school children in Northampton. The performance will be based around traditional carnival characters from both Britain and Trinidad and explore the idea of story-telling and the way history is recorded. Free event. Open to schools only.



CarnivalArchiveProjectNorthampton



@carnivalarchive

If you do not have access to the internet please call or write to Charlotte Dickerson,  
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