

CARNFORTH EXPRESS

Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

July & August 2023



'Fringe' with Benefits

Did you know that the Edinburgh Fringe is the third largest event in the world, after the Olympics and the World Cup?

During the second weekend of July, we were delighted to host several fringe performers to show off their talents as they made their way north to the fringe festival. We were pleased to have the added benefit of local talent performing too!

The event opened at the Royal Station Hotel on Friday evening with a taster of what was to come for the rest of the weekend. After an opening introduction by the Town Mayor Cllr Grisenthwaite, a large audience in the

Station Hotel ballroom was entertained with theatre, poetry and comedy.

Over the next two days, and in the spirit of a fringe festival, acts moved and performed at three different venues in the town - the Royal Station Hotel; Brief Encounter Bar & Bistro and at Carnforth Civic Hall - with the audiences also moving between these venues to enjoy everything on offer.

Acts were zany, thought-provoking, funny and downright odd – but that's the nature of Fringe and certainly all received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the many visitors. All events were free to attend, but performers were rewarded with generous voluntary donations that went towards funding the journey north.

Given the adult nature of some of the shows, some alternative and more family-friendly entertainment was provided on the Saturday at the War Memorial Gardens. The Morecambe Playhouse players told a theatrical tale of George and the Dragon, followed by the Carnforth Community choir, Chimps of the Future - a great breaking band from Lancaster - and finally a variety performance by our friends from C&C Entertainment.

Overall, the event was well received and gave residents and visitors the opportunity to experience live entertainment. The 'Carnforth Fringe' will now be reviewed by Carnforth Town Council with a view to hosting it again next year as part of a much bigger developing 'Bay Fringe' project and possibly combining our now very popular 'Big Lunch' event.

As well as relying on hard work by Council staff and Councillors, massive thanks go to all our friends: Liam and Andrea of the Brief Encounter Bistro; Glen and Maggie at the Royal Station Hotel; Carnforth Print and Design; our local businesses who helped advertise the event and Carnforth Chamber of Trade who helped sponsor the event and, of course all our performers.



If you have any comments about the Fringe, please do get in touch. **Councillor Chris Smith**

Great Oaks from little acorns grow...

At the beginning of April, Carnforth Town Council took over direct management control of the Highfield allotments from the former Allotments Committee of plot holders.

Some changes have already taken place with a general overhaul of management systems including the introduction of a simplified method of calculating and collecting rents, together with several improvements on site. More improvements are scheduled but perhaps one that may have a long-term impact concerns the creation of a community plot.

In April a vacant plot was designated as a community plot to be used as a means of encouraging wider community use of allotments. Cultivating an allotment and growing fruit and vegetables can not only benefit an individual economically but it can also be a great boost to their health and well-being. Our community plot is now being tended by David Young who is already making his mark. His mother has written to say:

I thought you may like to see some photos from the Highfield Allotment plot you so kindly let David start cultivating with the intention of it becoming a community plot.

He has planted potatoes by the ton (!), spinach, outdoor tomatoes, spring onions, strawberries, pumpkins, and chillies. His spinach rather took over and he sent some to Egg Cup, the food bank in Lancaster.

He mentioned to his GP that there was a plot if anyone could benefit from the therapeutic nature of working outdoors with plants.

I know he feels that there are now jobs to do which others may want to help with, such as weeding, watering and harvesting the produce. It's proved to give [him] much more than I expected. He speaks to other allotmenters and is very happy going there.

Thank you once again for giving him this opportunity.

It is the firm intention and ambition of Carnforth Town Council to protect and develop the allotments for the benefit of the whole community. We want to encourage allotment holders, old and young, to take a pride in their plots, to pass on their skills to others whenever possible and to make Carnforth proud of its allotments. For more information about Carnforth allotments please contact Councillor Paul Turner

paul.turner@carnforthtowncouncil.org . **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite, Town Mayor**



Out and about with the Town Mayor:

Town Mayor, Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite, has had a busy first few weeks in office.

As well as opening the first ever Carnforth Fringe Festival, he has had the pleasure of officially opening this year's Carnival, taking time to meet everyone on site including stall holders, entertainers, community groups, organisations and charities like the Sea Cadets, North West Blood Bikes and Lancaster Area Search and Rescue and residents – including four-legged ones!

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk, Bob Bailey, visited Carnforth High School to see their celebration assemblies at the end of the 2023/24 academic year.



It was also an opportunity for reflection and the Town Mayor spoke to the students about the unprecedented events that have taken place over the last year – the Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee and her State Funeral and the coronation of King Charles III. He then presented every student with a special commemorative medal for them to keep and, in years to come, remember a very special year for the town and the country.

On 14th of July the Town Mayor also joined Carnforth Twinning Association and guests for a convivial evening at Christ Church Primary School to celebrate Bastille Day - France's biggest national

event of the year - commemorating the storming of the Bastille prison and the first major event of the French Revolution of 1789.

Carnforth Town Council staff receive honours

Carnforth Town Council is proud of its hardworking and dedicated staff who work tirelessly to serve our community and so we were especially pleased to see them getting recognition for their efforts and experience in the last few weeks.

Our Town Clerk, Bob Bailey, has lived, worked and played in the Lancaster District all his life. He has 45 years of local government experience behind him – working for Lancaster City Council before joining Carnforth Town Council five years ago - and so it is fitting that he has recently received the Freedom of the City of Lancaster from the City Mayor, Cllr Roger Dennison, and Chief Executive, Mark Davies, at a special Court session and ceremony. Bob can now pasture a limited number of beasts and herd them through the City to market – a great honour indeed!



Two of our other staff have also received recognition recently, with our part-time Administrative Officer, Leah Longhorn, graduating from Manchester Metropolitan University and Rik Marsden, our Facilities Manager, passing the alcohol licensing qualification enabling us to sell alcohol at Carnforth Civic Hall!



Also setting a benchmark...

Carnforth Town Council is grateful to these three gentlemen who recently installed a picnic bench and table - kindly provided by Lancaster City Council - in Alexandra Park...and in the pouring rain! The Town Council is providing four planters that will be installed soon.

A special mention to Gail Brown who does tremendous work in maintaining this area of land that is enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite, Town Mayor

Weather-hit dance show and birthday party rescued



Carnforth Town Council was delighted to be able to make Carnforth Civic Hall and Crag Bank Village Hall available at very short notice over a very wet weekend recently for two very different but equally special reasons.

Children at Sophie's Academy of Musical Theatre in Morecambe had

been working hard for weeks to present a 'showcase' of their work outdoors in the sunshine and raise money for St John's Hospice - but the torrential rain put all their plans in jeopardy - until we saw their appeal for an indoor venue on social media! Arrangements were hastily made, and the event took place on time at Crag Bank Village Hall.

All 100 children adapted to completely new surroundings wonderfully well and they and the 300 family and friends who watched them had a great time, raising nearly £300 pounds for the Hospice. Sophie said *'We couldn't be more grateful to Carnforth Town Council – they saved our show and I would highly recommend Crag Bank Village Hall to anyone. It's a great venue with ample parking'*.

Around the same time, we received a desperate call from the parent of a young lady called Avery who was all ready to celebrate *'her first real birthday party'* with all her friends only to find that they could not get into the venue they had booked! With just 30 minutes notice, we got Carnforth Civic Hall ready just in time for a group of very excited 5 year olds and their parents and guardians to arrive for their much-anticipated party. Avery's mum, Kelly, said *'We are so thankful for Carnforth Town Council's help on Sunday - they made our little girl's birthday party so special and she absolutely loved it! I would 100% recommend Carnforth Civic Hall – it will always be our go to place from now on!'*



If you need a venue for your special event – perhaps with a little more notice – both halls can be booked online at [Carnforth Town Council - Scribe Bookings \(scribeaccounts.com\)](https://scribeaccounts.com) and both



are suitable for ceremonies, baby groups, corporate events, musical events/practice, exhibitions, meetings, parties, sports and fitness, societies and clubs, training and workshops and theatre productions.

Following district-wide consultation we are pleased to announce that Carnforth Civic Hall is now fully licensed AND recently gained a top score for Food Safety and Hygiene.

Bob Bailey, Town Clerk



Twenty years of Twinning: It was back in 2003 that the agreement between the councils of Carnforth and Saily sur la Lys was signed after several months of informal meetings between Frank Barton, Tony Rimmer, George Birkett and their French counterparts. Commemorative trees were planted in France and in Carnforth and the long friendship between our towns began. Since then, there have been annual visits, alternating between Saily and Carnforth. During these, guests are hosted by members of the Twinning Associations for 4 days of trips to local – and not so local – places of interest. As a

registered charity, any funds that we raise are used to cover the costs of our French friends' visits and over the years we have been able to take them as far afield as Hadrian's Wall as well as visits closer to home including Leighton Hall and Lancaster Castle. There have been memorable evenings during these visits including a belated Burns Night with a giant haggis piped into Over Kellet Village Hall, a hog roast, and an Olympic Games night. We have introduced our French friends to barn dancing (in a barn, complete with hay bales) and they have treated us to a Moroccan evening and some of the delicacies of northern France. During one visit, we held an activity day for the English and French children at Capernwray Hall to give them a day of fun and it was lovely to see them communicating in various languages and encouraging each other up telegraph poles and into canoes.

In the 20 years since the agreement was signed, the Associations have helped to arrange work placements for several students and have worked hard to set up links between schools and, more recently, libraries. (Amy Studdart, Carnforth Library Officer, is pictured above with our latest display to celebrate the Twinning.)



This year, it is the turn of Carnforth to visit Saily and, in August, 26 people will get on a coach in the early morning for the trip across the channel. We don't know where we will visit or what we will do but it is always wonderful to renew old friendships and make new ones. It is our hope that our town Twinning will continue for another 20 years and beyond. If you are interested in joining the Twinning Association or would like more information, please contact **Lesley Simon** on lesleysimonedit@hotmail.com, or find us on Facebook.

Around our communities: **Carnforth High School** Year 7 students took part



in community service by volunteering to litter pick. Sadly, the weather did get the better of them, but not before they managed to collect an impressive amount of litter in just half an hour!

Well done to all the pupils who were enthusiastic and energetic throughout, making a positive impact in our local community.

Carnforth Free Methodist invites you to join them for their Music and Memories sessions. Anyone with dementia or memory loss is welcome, along with their

friends, relatives or carers, to come and join in, singing old familiar songs, learning a few new ones, singing simple rounds or playing percussion instruments. They also have a "thought for the day" and spend time enjoying chatting and tea & refreshments.

The group is run by volunteers from Carnforth Free Methodist Church who have all attended sessions about safeguarding and Dementia Friends.

Next meetings: 3, 17 and 31 August and then ongoing fortnightly. Sessions run from 1.30pm to 3.15pm. Community Centre, Kellet Road, Carnforth LA5 9LR | parking at rear | email: connect@cfmc.org.uk or call 01524 736141 for further information.

Carnforth Chamber of Trade have had some fantastic events so far this summer - despite the weather - and we would like to congratulate the Carnforth Carnival committee on a great carnival and Carnforth Town Council for a brilliant Fringe event!

The Chamber has been delighted to provide the hanging baskets again this year. They are looking lovely and, as always, we are grateful to Keith Moore (Moore N Wife) and Keith Quinn (Dyno Start) for their efforts in putting them up and maintaining a lot of them.

Next in the diary is the Carnforth Artisan Market which will be held on the 12 August between 10am and 2pm, in the War Memorial Gardens. There will be a variety of craft stalls and some live music.

Be sure to come along and have a browse and maybe treat yourself to something completely unique! **Alison Seddon**



Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated 50 years ago, in December 1972.

As an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the landscape is recognised as special and unique. The AONB covers approximately 29 square miles, making it one of the smallest AONBs in the UK.

This extraordinary place is famous for its amazing wildlife, stunning scenery, and superb walks. From the simple beauty of the wild orchids to the shining sands of Morecambe Bay, the area is simply awe-inspiring.

Stunning limestone pavements, ancient woodlands, intimate orchards and meadows and an impressive coastline make Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty one of England's finest landscapes.

The AONB Partnership Team, Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust and Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company are all local organisations that are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the landscape.

Volunteers can help with everything from repairing dry stone walls to litter picks, clearing brash to laying hedges, leading walks to social media.

If you're keen to get involved there are volunteering opportunities listed on the Arnside & Silverdale AONB website: www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk.



Come and meet us on **HARRI**

Date: **FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER**
Time: **10am – 3pm**
Venue: **Booths Supermarket Car park, Scotland Road, Carnforth, LA5 9JZ**

HARRI is our health and wellbeing engagement vehicle, with it we are able to travel around Lancashire and South Cumbria to talk with the local communities and individuals.

On board:

- We engage with you to share our ideas and plans for the future and to gain insight into what your needs are.
- We offer simple signposting, advice, and guidance to offer the right help at the right time in the right place for you.

On board there will be partners from within the NHS and beyond, which will enable us to offer you a wide range of information on many of the issues you may be facing, Mental helpline, quit smoking, diabetic, wellbeing team, Mindsmatter, and much more.

Pop over and say hello to our team and local health partners.

Are you worried and just needed to talk to someone?

Would you like some information on quit smoking?

Would you like to attend our **FREE** health and wellbeing courses?

Worried about cost of living

Free Blood pressure & pulse checks



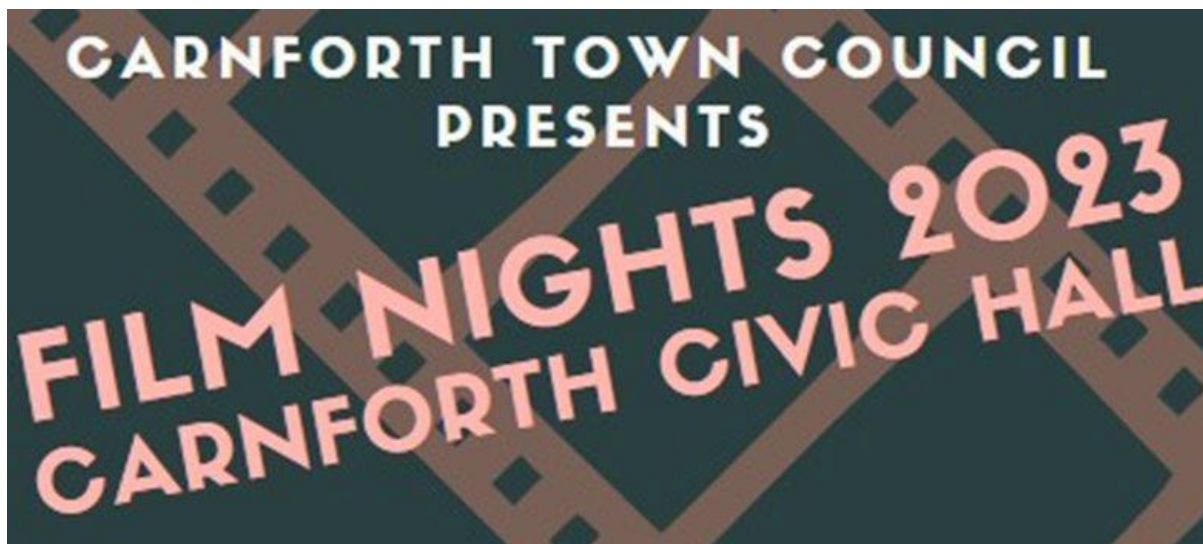
Creations Gallery, Carnforth Heritage Centre



Carnforth Town Council welcomes an exciting new venture located at the Railway Station and Heritage Centre.

Creations Gallery will display a wide range of products from local artists including: paintings (landscapes, wildlife, abstract), photography, fabrics and home-ware, jewelry, ceramics, hand-made journals, knitwear, screen and lino prints and more.

Much of the work features local scenes or is inspired by North Lancashire's outstanding environment. The gallery seeks to offers a fair deal for artists/ crafters, providing affordable display space with no commission on sales. Hence, artists can receive a return that more closely reflects their skill and the time involved in producing each item. Opening from 22nd August 2023 (Tues to Sat).



Another great selection of films coming to Carnforth Civic Hall for Autumn 2023 and Winter 2024!

You are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment – just click the link!

9 September - Mrs Harris Goes to Paris. Book here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORP>

14 October - See How They Run. Book here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORQ>

18 November - Fisherman's Friends: One & all. Book here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORU>

16 December - Your Christmas or Mine? Book here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORV>

27 January – Allelujah. Book here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORW>

24 February - The Outfit. Book here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORX>

23 March - Three Thousand Years of Longing. Book here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORY>

Tickets for all films £10, including our excellent pie and peas supper!

Doors open at 6:00pm, supper is served at 6.30pm and the film show follows.

To avoid disappointment put these dates in your diary and book your tickets online now!

Please note that dates and films may be subject to change



Date	Event	Venue
12 th August	Artisan Market	War Memorial Gardens
24 th – 29 th August	Twinning Association exchange	Sailly sur la Lys
<p>If you would like your event to be promoted here, please email Leah at: admin@carnforthtowncouncil.org or call Bob on 07828 254149</p>		