

# SANDOWN CARNIVAL

Annual report, 27 January 2024

from Paul Coueslant  
Chair, Sandown Carnival Association

I'm delighted to report that 2023 was a successful and groundbreaking year for us.

Sandown Carnival forged new partnerships across the community, boosting participation at our events and adding to the entertainment and involvement we offer the town and its visitors.

Broadlea Primary School and The Briars Care Home were among thousands able to enjoy and take part in **The Great Sandown Hat Revival**, thanks to a grant awarded to us by Arts Council England.

Hat-making workshops, High Street window displays and a Grand Hat Parade were all part of the creativity and fun leading up to August's **Sandown Bay Regatta**.

It meant a triumphant return for the town's tradition of donning eccentric headwear on Regatta day.



Since taking over the Regatta in 2022, we've looked to expand what we offer over the whole weekend of the event.

In 2023, we partnered with Island firm Pawsitive Animal Care to stage our first ever **Regatta Dog Show** at Sandham Gardens.

The result was a successful Sandown Carnival fundraiser supported by proud pet owners and their prize pooches.

Our other summer events attracted the usual big crowds and Islandwide media interest and, last year, both Sky TV and Channel 5 approached us to film at **Sandown Main Carnival** for programmes due to air in 2024.



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Sandown Carnival's talented team of volunteers created another **award-winning float** in 2023 to represent us in style at all the Island's summer parades, as well as at Christmas events in Newport, Ryde and Ventnor.



We're indebted to our float-builders and drivers Stuart, Chris, Steve and Roy and to Tracy, Kath, all our participants and their families for ensuring Sandown was able to take a spectacular show on the road once again, and...

...we're pleased to confirm that we welcome boys and girls at our annual selection for the 2024 float which gets under way in March.



As always, we couldn't put on our events without the generous help and collaboration of others.

We're grateful to the **Daisie Rich Trust** for supporting our 2023 Children's Carnival, **Sandham Gardens** for hosting both the Children's Carnival and our first Regatta Dog Show, **Sandown Pier** for their key role in staging the 2023 New Year's Day Celebrations, the **Trouville Hotel** and **Sundial Cafe** for essential help with facilities, **Boojum & Snark** for their crucial part in The Great Sandown Hat Revival, the **Co-op Local Community Fund** for selecting us as a beneficiary over the coming year, and **Sandown Town Council**.



To everyone who gave Sandown Carnival financial or other support, a massive thank you. Your contributions made a real difference to the work we were able to do.

Special thanks go to all who offered their time selflessly to help us raise money or run events. We depend on you and are eternally grateful.

Not least, warm appreciation and thanks to my colleagues on the Carnival Committee, dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the organisation on track. Particular mention must go to Karen, Sue and the team who run our High Street shop. In a year when many people had less spare money to spend, the shop's annual takings grew by around 50%, a vital contribution to our funds as we head into 2024.



Finally, we thank Evy who's been a lynchpin as Sandown Carnival Secretary since 2019 and is moving on. We're delighted that she plans to stay involved with us as an Association member.

Here's to a happy, healthy and successful 2024.

*Paul*