

Hedge End Carnival is back again as it heads towards its centenary in 2021.

Carnival week gets underway with a Quiz at the 2000 Centre on Monday July 1st. Carnival quizzes usually sell out check if there are any places left by telephoning 01489 690825.

The Dog Show has been a staple of carnival week for more than 40 years. This is a fun show for pet owners rather than special breed enthusiasts. The show schedule is on the website. Check out the classes and bring your dog along to Greta Park on Wednesday. Registration gets underway from 5.30. The judge is travelling from Luton so make the trip worth her while and see how many rosettes your dog gets to take home.

Greta Park on Wednesday is also the venue for the Children's Sports which get underway at 6.30. The sports are organised by carnival committee member Lee Page whose day job is Sports Development Officer for Southampton City Council. Lee also brings along the rest of the sports development team this a professional presentation and the few children who come along have a good time and usually go home laden with prizes. This is a great opportunity for children to enjoy themselves but is usually the least supported of the carnival week events. How about bringing your children along and turning it into the busiest night of the week.

On Thursday evening the usual bingo session at the Village Hall becomes carnival bingo including a carnival raffle. Bingo gets underway about 7.15 so make sure you are there by 7 to get all your books sorted.

Carnival Day is Saturday July 6th. The procession is open to everyone and the more people who enter the procession the better it becomes. This year's optional theme is "Musicals" so there should be plenty of things to give you inspiration. The entry form is on the carnival website. At 2.15 the carnival procession starts in St. Johns Rd. before turning into Freegrounds Avenue, Sherborne Way, Hobb Lane and Lower Northam Road to finish at Greta Park where the Gala Show will have been in full swing since 1.00. Along the route Sophie Penwill is going to be singing for you in Lower Northam Road and Patch Collins will be in the bandstand, check them out as you wait for the procession to arrive.

At the Gala Show a continuous run of entertainment is planned between 2.00 and 5.30. Getting things underway at 2.00 will be the Swanmore Samba Band followed by groups such as Dance Out Loud, Sound Pop Academy, New Music Makers and Performing Arts Co. with extracts from their latest show. There will be Bollywood Dancers who will also be running workshops so that you can have a go too. In the arena the Fair Oak Dog Display Team will be performing and the afternoon will be rounded off by The Remotes so we suggest you stay and enjoy the music and perhaps have a drink from the bar to round off what will be the best day of the year in Hedge End.

Remember that Hedge End Carnival is held in aid of charity please give generously during the procession nice shiny silver coins are just right and when you pay to come into the Gala Show (adults £1 each) make sure that you are smiling. If you have gone cashless make sure that you get plenty of cash especially for carnival day. You cannot do carnival without cash. Please buy as many carnival draw tickets as you can afford.

If you would like a chair so that you can enjoy the entertainment in comfort then bring one with you. Make sure that you have a carrier bag with you to make it easy to take home any rubbish you make. The Carnival Committee operates a no litter policy there are no litter bins provided, if you are not happy to take all your rubbish home then the invitation to attend does not apply to you.

Hope to see you there.

More help is always needed to make the carnival happen. Particularly help to carry out the road closures setting up and clearing away the show and collecting donations at the gate. If you are prepared to assist in any way please contact the organisers and let us see if we can keep it all going until 2021.

The Fun Fair will be open at Greta Park from Wednesday until Monday times vary. Check posters for reduced price nights.

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