

Buxton Well Dressing Festival

Carnival Guidelines (v2023_02)

Vehicle Safety

Every entry must conform to the Construction and Use Regulations, Road Traffic Act 1988 Section 40A, be safe, and fit for purpose.

Any trailer over 500Kg must be fitted with a fully working overrun brake that will also be operated by a breakaway system that will apply the trailer brakes should the main method of attachment to the towing vehicle become detached for whatever reason. These should not be concealed within the float construction so that easy inspection can take place to verify that all is well with both the hitch and brake system.

A Certificate of Insurance, or suitable indemnity, covering all risks must be in force covering the use of the vehicle and float in the Carnival. Tyres, lights and brakes must conform to the relevant legal requirements.

All Owners/Drivers of participating vehicles or person in charge of vehicles, must ensure that they have valid insurance for injury to Passengers Travelling in or on their vehicle and that no liability will be accepted by Buxton Well Dressing Festival Committee. We would advise that if you are in doubt you should clarify same with your Insurance Company as failure to comply could result in breach of Motor Policy Terms and Conditions, therefore not providing any Policy Cover at all

Flammable materials shall not be used in the construction of the float and where practicable materials should be flame retardant.

The use of plain glass should not be used on floats. This includes light fittings and fixtures. Clear plastics should be used in windows or partitions etc.

You should be able to detach and/or secure parts of your float construction to allow for transportation, without the need to drive at excessively slow speeds, to and back from the Carnival without causing a highway obstruction.

Where a generator supplies power, then this should be at least 12 inches clear of combustible material. A method to quickly shut down the unit and fuel system from the edge of the float should be deployed, removing the need to remove access panels etc to gain direct access to the unit. Adequate ventilation should be allowed to keep the unit cool and not allow a build up of heat to occur, you should not rely on a forward motion of the float to provide cooling air.

Ventilation of exhaust gasses from your towing vehicle and your generator should be kept to an absolute minimum, and serious consideration should be given to the amount of energy your float requires.

Ideally all electrical systems on your float should be low voltage. Equipment should be tested by a fully qualified electrician, and Portable Appliance Test (PAT) certificates may be required in some instances.

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Procession Safety

The procession may only travel at walking pace and each float must be under the supervision of suitable persons who will walk alongside the float.

All floats and vehicles in the procession must keep close to the people in front. When gaps open up in the procession there is greater risk of people being in the road and in danger.

The throwing of water or any items from vehicles is not allowed and the offenders are reminded that they are liable for any claims for damage made against them. No water, flour or other missiles shall be thrown from the float. Nothing should be handed out by persons on the float.

No alcohol and/or illegal substances may be consumed/used by the driver, supervisors or persons on the float nor whilst that float is in the procession.

Collection receptacles must not be operated from the floats, only walkers may collect using the approved tins and/or buckets. All monies collected must be passed to an authorised person at the collection points situated in The Crescent.

Passengers on Floats

No passengers may be carried on a float when in normal traffic, unless that float is proceeding in the Carnival procession, except on large floats where a supervisor may be carried to assist the driver.

If you are going to have people on your float then a good rule of thumb for capacity would be to allow 1 square metre per person as a nominal load capacity. If they are seated, the seating structure should be secured in such a manner as to prevent the passenger from being thrown should the vehicle have to brake abruptly while in the procession.

If passengers are not seated then suitable precautions should be taken to prevent them from falling from the float. There may also be a handrail that should be fitted securely at a height in keeping with your passengers. Children must be seated securely, or if standing provided with restraints. Adults should be provided with handholds if standing.

It is advised that a first aid kit should form part of the equipment along with a fire extinguisher. These are useless unless someone in your party knows where they are stored and how to use them correctly.

An easy to use method to load and off load your float with, ideally, a series of steps that form part of the float construction is recommended. A stepladder just rested against the side is not acceptable and should at the very least be secured for loading and off loading of passengers.

A means of communication, usually verbal, must be available between the driver and supervisors.

No one will climb on or off the float whilst in the procession, unless the vehicle is stationary and one of the supervisors is in contact with the driver.

Buxton Well Dressing Festival Committee

www.buxtonwelldressing.co.uk

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