

Buxton Well Dressing Festival

Ideas for building a carnival float (v2025_01)



1. Vehicle

You can use any vehicle: car, trailer, van, tractor, bus, lorry...

Local transportation businesses in Buxton are willing to help by providing vehicles to clubs, groups and schools for carnival floats. Open sided and flatbed lorries are the best.

For example:

Lomas Distribution has a number of open sided lorries that they are kindly willing to loan for the carnival. (Waterswallows Industrial Park, Waterswallows Rd, Buxton SK17 7JB. Tel 01298 25479)

If they can supply a vehicle to you, then it can usually be available on the Friday afternoon the day before the carnival and the Saturday morning of the carnival to decorate at the yard. You will also need to strip off the decorations before the following Monday.

The transportation companies are kind enough to help, so please ensure you do not cause them inconvenience. They appreciate a letter of thanks and a donation for the driver.

2. Equipment

You may want a sound system to play music or to use a microphone. An amplifier is required if you want the crowd to hear. A portable CD or MP3 player will not be loud enough to be heard over the other noises. The float organiser is responsible for any music licensing.

A petrol-driven generator can be hired from places like Chapel Tool Hire (01298 814111 www.chapeltoolhire.co.uk).

If you are using an artic truck, you will need a stepladder to get on and off. Righthand side best for exiting at the end of the carnival in The Quadrant.

3. Decorating

Don't underestimate the time it takes to decorate a float, and the size and scale if you are going to use a big lorry. You can use anything you like - balloons, florist ribbon, sheets, painted cardboard, straw bales, hoardings, papier mâché, bunting, banners etc. You might want to include seating.

Crown Scaffolding (01298 601163 or 01663 743407) have been happy to help by installing handrails on lorries from Lomas Distribution. They do this for free if they can put their company banner on for publicity. This can be an important safety feature.

4. People

Get dressed up and have a good time!

You can be on the carnival float for a long time. The float has to be booked in by 12.00pm and the judging and prize giving starts at 12.00pm. The carnival can take 2 hours (2pm-4pm). Think about having food and drink. We have access to the toilets at St Anne's School before the start of the carnival.

Buxton Well Dressing Festival Committee

www.buxtonwelldressing.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1156707