



# WELCOME TO BRIDGWATER GUY FAWKES CARNIVAL

## ACCESS STATEMENT

This access statement does not contain our opinions as to our suitability for those with disabilities, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our visitors.

### CARNIVAL PROCESSION

#### BACKGROUND

Bridgwater Carnival is an annual event held on the first Saturday in November each year, originating in 1881 the carnival has been held every year since except during the world wars and has grown over the years to the spectacular event we see today. It is the oldest British carnival and as far as we are aware the largest illuminated carnival in Europe, maybe the world?

#### ACCESS

Access is not too difficult as the carnival is a wholly outdoor event, the only building managed by the carnival committee being the carnival centre mentioned below. The town is in the main level as is the carnival route with the only incline being the railway bridge near the start of the procession

#### THE EVENT

Carnival day itself commences at 10am when roads in the town centre are closed to traffic and the daytime entertainment commences and lasts throughout the day on the streets and various venues, the main carnival procession itself commences at 6pm

#### CARNIVAL CENTRE

Bridgwater carnival has a carnival centre in the Town Hall complex in the High Street, this is accessible to wheelchair visitors via a ramp. The centre has memorabilia of previous carnivals on display and souvenirs on sale.

#### ASSISTANCE

Carnival Makers with a red top are on duty in the town centre on carnival day to provide assistance and information to visitors, in addition we have radio marshals on the procession route who can summon assistance if required.

## VIEWING THE CARNIVAL

Bridgwater Carnival is an outdoor event held on the highway, so access to the event is not difficult as roads along the procession route are closed to traffic, the route is two miles long and can be viewed from the pavement at any point on the route.

## GETTING TO THE CARNIVAL

If arriving by car there are numerous car parks in the town which contain almost 100 disabled bays, but these car parks tend to fill up early in the day, several of these car parks are in close proximity to the carnival procession route. Unfortunately we are unable to provide parking on the route itself due to the size of the crowds the carnival attracts.

Alternatively we run two Park & Ride schemes one each from J.23 & J.24 of the M5, all are signposted when leaving the motorway, the buses we use are adapted for wheelchair users.

Bridgwater is also served by the main services, bus and train.

## GRANDSTANDS

We also provide over 2,000 grandstand seats with the first row seats at ground level, these are pre-bookable when they go on sale in April/May each year. There are sizeable car parks within a 10 minute walk from the location of the grandstands and toilets nearby.

## TOILET FACILITIES

We hire in numerous toilet units of which 10 are suitable for the disabled, these are located around the procession route to supplement the normal toilet provision.

## ENTERING THE CARNIVAL

In order to make the carnival all-inclusive entries are accepted from anyone meeting the class criteria, our carnival procession can be entered online from the 1<sup>st</sup> July with a closing date of the 1<sup>st</sup> September each year.

## VIEWING AREA

This year we have an area in Mount Street which will have parking, toilet facilities and a viewing area for the disabled, again it is on a first come first served basis, parking will be prioritised for those with a Blue Badge.

## CONTACT DETAILS

For more information if possible visit our website:

**[www.bridgwatcarnival.org.uk](http://www.bridgwatcarnival.org.uk)**

**Email us at [enquiries@bridgwatcarnival.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridgwatcarnival.org.uk)**

**Phone the Carnival Centre 01278 428220**

**Follow us on Twitter #BCarnival or join our Facebook Group**



## CARNIVAL CONCERTS



### BACKGROUND

Bridgwater Carnival Concerts are an annual event held early October each year, originating in 1883 to raise funds to finance the carnival, the concerts have been held every year since except during the world

wars and has grown over the years to the two week event it has now become.

### ACCESS

The concerts are held in the Bridgwater Town Hall in the High Street adjacent to the Bridgwater Carnival Centre, access to the hall is level and at pavement level with no steps.

### THE EVENT

The concerts follow the four day Bridgwater Fair which commences on the last Wednesday in September with the concerts starting on the following Monday. There are twelve performances running from Monday to Saturday each week. The show lasts approximately four hours and commences at 7pm each night and 6pm on the two Saturdays.

The show is the start of the carnival season and features each of the local gangs & features depicting their theme for the carnival procession, these are interspersed with local front of curtain acts and dance troupes.

### THE VENUE

The Town Hall was built in 1865 so is an old building with some restrictions, the entrance to the main hall is level but there is no disabled access to the balcony.

People in wheelchairs can be accommodated if notified in advance by removing some of the fixed seating.

### TOILET FACILITIES

The Town Hall has one disabled adapted toilet on the ground floor with level access.

### SQUIBBING

#### THE EVENT

The squibbing display is held in the High Street after the procession and is due to commence within fifteen minutes of the last cart crossing the finishing line.

#### THE VENUE

The High Street is level and accessible but care should be taken when the squibbing starts due to the crowd movement when the squibs are lit.