

Press Release

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Shildon Memories Project

Date: 18 March 2009

Roll up, roll up! Summer is on its way and its time to celebrate!

Shildon certainly knew how to celebrate in days gone by with the Shildon Carnival, the Shildon Show, May Day celebrations, Coronation Festivities and all the extravagant celebrations surrounding the opening of the Rec ground in 1912 to mention just a few. Shildon certainly loved to celebrate.

The theme for the Shildon Memories Project throughout April, May and June is all things celebratory, particularly the history of the Shildon Carnival which ran for a whole decade from 1912 to 2004.

Were you a carnival king or queen? Did you design and build a float? What was the route of the carnival? What was it like to be a part of the carnival? What was your favourite costume? Who took part and why? We want to find the answers to all these questions and more and would love to see any photos or memorabilia from the carnivals that you might like to share with the project.

What about the Shildon Show? How was that different to the Carnival? When and where did it happen?

The children at Thornhill Primary School celebrate May Day with traditional May Pole dancing. Were you a May queen or did you take part in a may pole dance? We are working with Thornhill Primary School throughout the term if you would like to be involved. So please, come along to one of our drop-in sessions at Shildon Library or the Locomotion Welcome Building, or one of our Family Fun Days at Locomotion. We would be thrilled to hear your memories and see your photographs.

A plea for cine film projector.

The Shildon History Recall Group have a wonderful collection of cine film taken at various carnivals, but no cine projector to play the films. "I would be thrilled to hear from anyone that has a cine film projector that they can operate, and would be happy to share with the project for one or two events so that we can all see these rare films" pleads Brenda.

Family Fun Day Thursday 9 April 2009

We will be hosting another Family Fun Day at Locomotion from 11am to 3pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

For further information, please contact Brenda Alexander on (0191) 3740930 or email brenda.alexander@ageconcern-durham.org.uk.

Further information

- This project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Sedgefield Borough Council. It is managed by Age Concern Durham County.