

BALSALL HEATH CARNIVAL FLOAT



Introduction

The Balsall Heath Carnival has been running since 1977 and the parade has always been a major part of it. The parade winds its way around the local streets and finishes at the carnival show ground. It tells everyone that the carnival is about to start and points the way.

2006 was the last year floats were in the parade

Anita Halliday

"We were expecting a lorry that was 26 feet long and we'd designed the whole of Shakespeare's plays to go on the back of the lorry...and what turned up was about 12 feet long. We cut everything in half basically. We went round with Romeo and Juliet on the balcony with their noses heavily pressed to the ruins of the Parthenon which was in turn rather mixed up with Burnham Wood. I am

sure that nobody had any idea that this was slightly concertinaed...

We had Sylvia as Cleopatra, not reclining so much as sitting bolt upright."

Val Hart

"The first year I was at the Venture we did this fantastic float called Top Of The Crops and we had these children strung up as peas on a frame and we had more of them dressed as carrots. We got halfway

up Edward Road and the heavens opened and I have never seen such rain and all the crepe paper of the carrots ran and they had got these orange and green streaky faces. Worst of all the poor little kids strung up as peas couldn't move as they were stuck on the frames and they were absolutely soaking."



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