



Bewdley Carnival Association

2026 AGM Minutes

7:00pm | Monday 28th September 2026
Bewdley Bowling Club

Committee Attendees:

- Denise Eaton – Vice Chair
- Alysha Bourne
- Jenny Chamberlain
- Chris Edwards
- Katie Johnson - Minutes
- Bex Jones
- Lisa Portman
- Dawn Taylor
- Simon Taylor

Apologies:

- Emily Bourne – Chair
- Christine Johnson - Treasurer
- Nick Jones
- Amanda Bradley – Trustee
- Ian Latimer – Trustee
- Nick Hinton – Trustee

Welcome

D Eaton opened the meeting at 19:10, welcoming everyone in attendance and thanking them for taking the time to come to the AGM. D Eaton conveyed the thanks of the Chair to all for coming, and her apologies for not being able to attend due to a family emergency.

D Eaton stressed that the carnival belongs to the people of Bewdley, and it is important we pull together to carry on the tradition for the town. The Committee are looking for as many volunteers as possible, in as many ways as possible – it all contributes to the greater good of the carnival.

D Eaton thanked the current committee members for their immense contributions to the 2026 carnival; it was a great success. Whilst it is not an easy job, it is worthwhile with a great sense of achievement on the day. Hopefully new volunteers will be able to join the committee and make the carnival an even bigger success for 2027 and beyond.

Introductions

The existing committee members gave their introductions, as follows:

- Katie – new volunteer to the Committee and hopeful incoming secretary
- Alysha – part of the Committee since 2023, primarily responsible for PR
- Lisa – part of the Committee since 2023, on the Events team
- Bex (and Nick) – leading the Trade and Marshal teams for the last 2-years
- Jenny – joined in 2024, focused on giving back to the town and helping in any way possible
- Chris – lived in Bewdley all his life, joined the Committee in January and primarily runs the website
- Dawn – outgoing Secretary, supported the last two Carnivals and will continue to volunteer wherever possible
- Simon – supports on marshalling and gathering sponsorship

Review of 2026 and financials

A Bourne opened the 2026 review by highlighting this was the fourth carnival since the previous Committee passed the mantle over in 2023, and the third one that has been held in the centre of town. 2026 was the 100th year celebration, which was confirmed with historical records of the first Land and River Parade being held in 1926. The Committee believe the carnival has grown in strength year on year and hope it will continue to grow for many more years.

Thanks were given to the Events team for keeping the carnival name in the community all year through, raising money so that we can provide a free family event. This Committee wanted to bring the carnival back into the centre of town, and make it free for all, which has been achieved. Events have been integral to this, and the sponsorship team have forged some amazing relationships to support the costs of putting on the carnival - a big thank you to S Taylor for all his efforts and relationship building. Whilst the committee are incredibly happy with how the 100-year celebration went, the committee is constantly looking to improve and gather extra help.

C Edwards gave a summary of the feedback from the 2026 carnival, as follows:

- 77% of respondents scored the overall event at 4.2 out of 5
- Organisation and Entertainment each scored 4 out of 5
- Food and Drink (vendors) was scored at 3.6 out of 5
- Value for money scored 3.8 out of 5

The general feeling was that most people enjoyed the parade, the atmosphere, fireworks and live music. There were concerns raised on noise levels from the parade, lack of variety with the food and drink options and parking was also an issue. Rides for older children have also been requested. The Committee value all the feedback, both via the survey and anecdotally, and will be drilling down on how best to improve for the 2027 event. Overall, there was a lot of positivity, with respondents saying they would attend the carnival again.

A Bourne took those present through the main finances for 2026, noting the figures are up to 3rd September.

The bank balance in the main Carnival bank account is £17, 376.90, with the Events bank account holding £720.71 and an additional £100.00 of petty cash.

For this 2026 Carnival, a total of £10,099.97 was spent, with incoming funds totalling £16,739.85, resulting in a profit of £6,639.88 for 2026.

L Portman added that this is a fully funded community event, receiving no funding other than a Grant from the Council. The Bewdley Carnival is a community event.

Cheques and presentations

A Bourne noted that the Parade is growing year on year, with a lot of the feedback stating the community would love to see more entries in the Parade. This is not something the Committee can control but more so where the community can really add their support, via community groups, schools, family and friends – the Parade is free to enter.

There are four annual categories for the Parade awards, which were won by:

- Best Youth Group – Bewdley Primary School
- Best Community Group – Bewdley Classic Car Club
- Best Trader – Specsavers, Kidderminster
- Stars of the Parade – Happy Staffie

As a committee, the main purpose is to raise money for local causes and the local community. Any non-profit organisation is welcome to enter the live draw, where there are three local causes drawn. The winners for 2026 are:

- The William Mills Foundation
- Summerdyne Nursing Home
- Bewdley Concert Band

Each year, the committee also choose their local cause which this year is HUGS.

The award winners were invited up to collect their awards and donations, with those in attendance giving a summary of their organisation.

Bewdley Classic Car Club has been running for six years and like to support the community as much as possible. They hold regular monthly meetings at The Running Horse, and all are welcome. They are long supporters of the Carnival and hope to support many more.

The William Mills Foundation charity supports young people of Bewdley and the local area, removing barriers that prevents them from reaching their potential. They have recently opened a Youth Hub attached to the Leisure Centre. The foundation keeps their running costs low so that every penny raised can go towards supporting young individuals. Roughly 150 – 200 people are being supported by the foundation throughout the year. The foundation is hoping to enter the 2027 Carnival Parade.

Summerdyne Nursing Home predominantly houses residents from the Bewdley area and would be keen to support the Carnival and local community. They have recently raised funds for a minibus to help residents go into Bewdley town and attend more community events. Most of the residents have connections with the businesses of Bewdley and would be happy to support the 2027 Carnival.

The Bewdley Concert Band was founded in 2010 and became a registered charity in 2024. They run regular rehearsals in Bewdley, keeping as much as possible within the community. As well as supporting the Carnival, they have events in Jubilee Gardens, Brinton's Park and Riverside Meadows in Stourport. Alongside the main concert band, there is an academy band that welcomes anyone who is Grade 2 or above to come to rehearsals at no cost.

HUGS provided memory boxes for the loss of a child; full-term loss, early loss and miscarriage. They support seven hospitals and five funeral directors. They have knitters all over the world, with some supporting the charity from Singapore. HUGS would welcome any knitters or crocheters who can help provide items for the boxes.

All those present expressed their gratitude to the committee for their various awards and donations.

A Bourne noted that the Carnival relies on its volunteers, and the committee is grateful to everyone who comes to help. Any expertise or time given is very much appreciated. The committee's aim is to keep Bewdley Carnival going and this cannot be done without more volunteers – everyone is welcome.

On behalf of the Committee and the wider Bewdley community, A Bourne thanked the wider events team of Simon, Louis and Ned who have given their time throughout the year to support the events. A token of appreciation has been gifted to them.

Thanks also go to the Marshals, who were celebrated at the Celebration event earlier in the summer. The Committee pledged that any non-profit team who can provide five or more people will receive a donation from the Carnival.

Thanks were given to Riverside Elim, who have helped for several years and are always willing to pitch in. The new Pastor moved to Bewdley in April and experienced the Carnival for the first time this year. The Church wants to get more involved and are looking forward to being part of the community and helping where we can.

And finally, thanks were given to RAYNET who support with the radios and communications on the day. The team are all volunteers who provide emergency comms for Cat 1 and Cat 2 calls and support charitable events throughout the year. Bewdley Carnival has been the longest standing charitable event supported thanks to Tony. RAYNET volunteered to reprogramme the radios (if under a business license) free of charge for 2027.

Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasury

The Committee noted the departure of the following members: Bex Jones, Nick Jones, Dawn Taylor, Simon Taylor and Lisa Portman. Special thanks were given to the exiting members, who have given so much to the success of the Carnival.

The following individuals were nominated:

- Chair – Emily Bourne (Proposed: C Edwards | Seconded: D Eaton)
- Vice Chair – Denise Eaton (Proposed: A Bourne | Seconded: L Portman)
- Secretary – Katie Johnson (Proposed: C Edwards | Seconded: D Eaton)
- Treasurer – Chritine Johnson (Proposed: D Eaton | Seconded: A Bourne)

Any Other Business (AOB)

The date of the next Carnival is Saturday 26th June 2027

There being no other business, the Committee thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting.

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 19th October at 7pm, Bowling Club

Recruitment Fair

- **Finance** – Monitors the budget and keeps track of all income and expenditure.
- **Risk Assessment** – Maintains up-to-date risk assessments, manages road closures, and ensures First Aid is on site.
- **Public Relations** – Runs our social media, website, newsletters and media releases.
- **Fundraising** – Organises fundraising events and secures sponsorship for local causes.
- **Carnival Essentials** – Covers everything specific to Carnival weekend, including the Best-Dressed Window Competition, entertainment, fireworks and the Carnival Royals.