



# Carnival

Carol Alevroyianni Creative Producer  
[@calevroyianni](#)



# Whitley Bay Big Local

## Making Whitley Bay better

- Bring back the good old days
- Things to do
- Places to meet
- Ways to feel part of the community







Whitley Bay

whitley  
bay

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# Whitley Bay Carnival

- bringing our diverse community together
- boosting local pride
- changing the way residents talk about their town
- giving focus to community activity.
- harnessing the skills of local residents to make it happen
- building community capacity for the future







# 'We could rival Notting Hill'

**Sonia Sharma**

Reporter  
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**A** SEASIDE town is gearing up for a spectacular carnival that organisers hope will rival Notting Hill.

The Whitley Bay Carnival on Saturday will feature a parade with more than 300 schoolchildren, dancers and musicians, as well as street theatre and entertainment.

The procession will include giant structures such as flying fish and racing sail boats created by schools and community groups.

They were helped by sculptor Richard Broderick whose work has appeared in carnivals all over the world including at the Derry City of Culture parade and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations at Buckingham Palace.

The event, which was revived last year by Whitley Bay Big Local after a 20-year absence, will once again bring music, dancing and colourful costumes to the streets of Whitley Bay as part of the group's 10-year plan to create a thriving community which people are proud to belong to.

This year's theme will be 'Whitley Bay's heyday' and the procession will make reference to some of the town's popular past events including the Folk Moot, flower show and scooter rally.

Children from Rockcliffe First School will be paying homage to the once popular flower show and have created flower and vegetable inspired hats and garlands as well as a range of giant leeks.

Other schools in the town, including Marine Park First School, have also been busy creating spectacular costumes and props with the help of arts workers provided by Whitley Bay Big Local.

The organisers secured Arts Council funding for the event.

Carol Alevroyianni, carnival producer, said: "Preparations for the carnival this year have involved such a wide range of people it feels like it really belongs to the whole community."



► Preparations are underway for the Whitley Bay Carnival. Annie Sheridan, Sarah Sutton, Creative Director Richard Broderick,

Emily Carey

"Funding from The Arts Council has enabled us to create a pretty spectacular carnival which with more than 300 local people taking part in the parade, dancing, singing and playing instruments as well as some phenomenal oversized structures that could rival Notting Hill for inventiveness and scale.

"But Whitley Bay isn't relying on wheels and sound systems for impact – this is an all walking carnival parade with live music."

Sharon Colpitts-Elliott, headteacher at Rockcliffe First School, added: "We are so pleased to be involved in this year's carnival. Our pupils and their families jumped at the chance of taking part.

"Children from across the entire school have got on board and it was great to see so many parents and grandparents coming along to the workshops to lend a hand, which has really helped to make the carnival a true community event that spans the generations."

Hundreds of people are expected to line the streets to take part in the procession which will start at Whitley Bay Metro station at around midday and finish at The Spanish City plaza at 1pm where live music and street performers will be entertaining the crowds.

■ More details can be found on the website [www.whitleybaybiglocal.co.uk](http://www.whitleybaybiglocal.co.uk)





# bringing people together

- "really lovely to work with parents, grandparents and children of all ages, Beautiful resources enabled everyone to create something special, to be proud of"  
"Lindsay Ford, Deputy Head Teacher, Rockcliffe First School
- "it's all we have talked about for weeks – it's the first thing we have ever done all together as a family"  
parent









# 2015 Numbers

- 44 local artists employed
- 410 participants
- 8000 audience
- 23000 virtual audience
- 3 new art commissions
- 114 days paid work for local people
- 54 participatory sessions

















# “All about the art and taking part”

- platform for the community of Whitley Bay to express it's self belief and hopefulness for the future.
- representing the community and encouraging local artists and local participation.















# What we learned

- Gain Trust
- Genuine engagement
- Give purpose
- Pride
- Contribute
- Diverse
- Together





# Whitley Bay Carnival



Celebrating days gone by, building new traditions.

**Saturday 23rd May 2015**

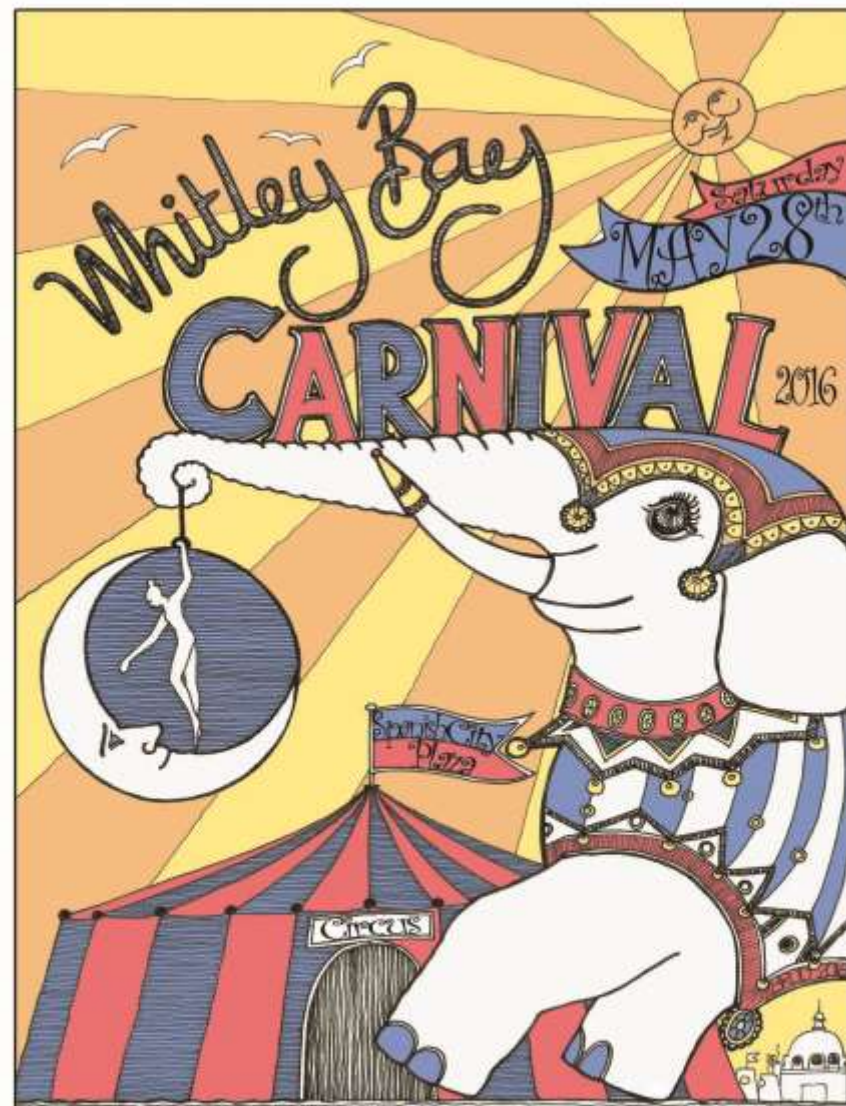
**Spanish City Plaza 11am-6pm**

**Carnival Parade**

12 noon Whitley Bay Metro Station  
Station Road, Esplanade, Promenade

*A splendid family day out*

Street Theatre, Music, Dance  
Real Ale, Pimms, BBQ, Ice Cream



A splendid family day out with free music, street theatre and the carnival parade 10am to 6 PM

Evening Carnival Ball tickets £45 from  
Preston's, De Mores and Enterprise  
Car Jibe

**News Guardian**

Lottery funded by Arts Council England













Our aim is

To positively impact on the local, regional and national reputation of Whitley Bay as a creative, friendly, welcoming place to live work or visit

To create a moment in the year which has the potential to bring the whole community together enhancing local pride and wellbeing

To present new accessible high quality arts practice and product

To engage local people of all ages and showcase their talents

To create paid work opportunities for professional artists and performers and apprentice opportunities for new practitioners on their home ground

To enhance the lived experience of living working and visiting Whitley Bay

To enable local residents, including temporary residents and those harder to reach to feel part of their community to have opportunities to contribute







Sarah  
Sutton