

Colchester Carnival 2011



The theme? **C**olour and Noise!

Want to be in the Colchester Carnival? We can help!

Find a few friends and form a Carnival Crew! Your crew can consist of as many or as few people you like – six is a good number. They could be people from work, or some of your classmates, people who live on your road, a common interest group like railway modelers or fishing buddies (or more likely their wives!) . It might be a club or society you are all members of or simply people who go to the same places you do. There are no restrictions at all, apart from the obvious thing about children being supervised
It doesn't cost anything at all to enter – unless you are a commercial entry in which case its £100.

Get together and think of a distinctive name such as “The Motorboys” or “The JonesGirls” or “Buttroadettes” or anything you like,

Then, work out what you are going to do. You might want to form a group of dancers and learn the Samba Reggae and dance with one of the samba bands. There is a section all about that later. You might want to make a set of costumes, or something much more elaborate, such as a large construction, animal costume or rod puppet which can be carried, or built around a trolley. Or you might be thinking of some giant flags or banners. How about planning a Chinese dragon or a giant caterpillar and get all the kids in your group involved?

The choices are all yours! You can walk, or make a hand-propelled or motorised float. When you know what you are going to be doing, let us know at <http://www.colchestercarnival.com> . We will keep you well informed about everything.

We want you and the public to really, really enjoy yourselves. That's what its all about, that's what it is for. Be as loud as you can, don't hold back. This is no time to be timid. Play music, bang drums. Use every moment to shout, yell, cheer, scream, and look for other ways to increase the volume. Unleash your inner animal to make noise.- but no firecrackers please! Show off your funky dance moves that compliment your costume. Have fun dancing; make noise with your moves

In the next few pages are a lot of ideas...

BE ONE OF THE CARNIVAL SAMBA REGGAE DANCERS



We want to form a troupe of at least one hundred Carnival Samba Reggae dancers for the day, made up of lots of smaller carnival crews of six or so.

So... Find a few friends, men or women or something in between (grin) and form a crew! Make a samba outfit with decorated bikini (if you dare) or leggings and top and a headdress. The top can be a crop top, a Caribbean-style tie-around top or a tie-dyed or painted teeshirt. Men usually have crop trousers and bare painted chests. Body paint is great, but optional. There are lots of pictures and instructions below .

You can download some of the basic music from <http://www.colchestercarnival/samba.mp3>

and learn the basic Reggae Samba moves from this video <http://www.5min.com/Video/How-to-Dance-a-Samba-Reggae-68734189>

Nearer the time we will hold a mass dance workshop where you can refine the moves under the guidance of an expert teacher.

At the procession itself you will be dancing to live samba drumming. Keep that energy up! But you will dancing for a long time, so some groups will be able to take a break and walk for a bit while others carry on. We finish in the park where all the samba bands will keep playing- and you can do even more dancing!



MAKE AND WEAR A COSTUME! Glamorous Mardi-Gras style



Some ideas

Decorate a bikini top using hot glue and sequins. For the top, cover the entire bikini top with sequins in the color of your choice. Use large sequins to make this step go more quickly. The amount of sequins you will need depends on the size of sequins you are using and the size of the bikini top you're modifying. If you are using large sequins, you will probably use approximately 250 sequins. Make sure to cover the straps and the back of the bikini top. Use different-colored sequins to create a pattern. Use circle, sunburst or star patterns, or make up your own.

Cut 12-inch fabric strips out of a sequined fabric that matches the sequins you used for your top. Each strip should be 1 inch wide. You will need enough strips to cover the entire bottom. The number you need depends on the size of the bikini bottom you are using. For example, if you have a 26-inch waist, you will need 26 strips.

Use straight pins to attach each of your fabric strips to the inside top edge of your bikini bottom. You want to encircle the entire inside waistband with the strips. Use a sewing machine to attach the strips in place. Remove the straight pins.

Cut the brim off an old baseball cap. If you do not have a cap you are willing to sacrifice, purchase one from a Poundland or the charity shops, or consider a bathing cap. Use hot glue to attach ostrich feathers to the entire hat. Use feathers that match your costume colors. Place some feathers so they stick straight up or out to the side. Cover the entire surface of the cap except the edge. You can use any positioning you would like for your feathers, as long as the cap is covered. Glue sequins in a coordinating color around the uncovered edge of the cap.

Dress in your costume and head piece. Pull the strips of fabric on the bottom of your bikini to the outside so they lie over the top of the waistband. Wear rhinestone costume jewelry for an added glitzy effect. Don't forget to decorate some shoes to match

In an ideal world you will want full body paint as well. Get a friend to help with this

For all kinds of other costume ideas, just do an image search on the computer using “Carnival costume” “Samba reggae” “masks” and so on as search terms.

Resources: Fabrics and decorations:

Fabrics:

Try Fabric8 in Head Street for off-cuts or Franklins in St Botolphs Street for pieces off the bolt. There are also plenty of online sources.

Feathers:

Fred Aldous

<http://www.fredaldous.co.uk/shop-online/feathers.htm?gclid=CKK-cTHgqcCFUEY4QodpXABfQ>

Rhinestones and sequins, Iron-on and sew on

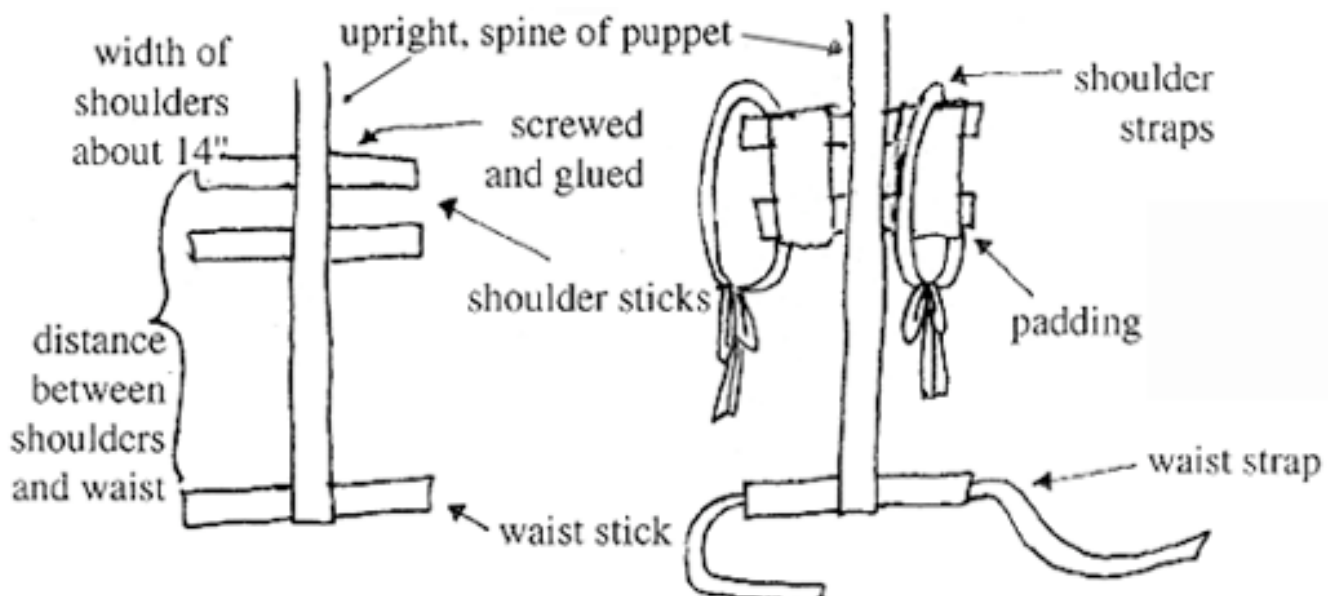
Rhinestonez

<http://www.rhinestonez.co.uk/>

MAKE LARGE WINGS, HALOS AND BACK-WORN EFFECTS

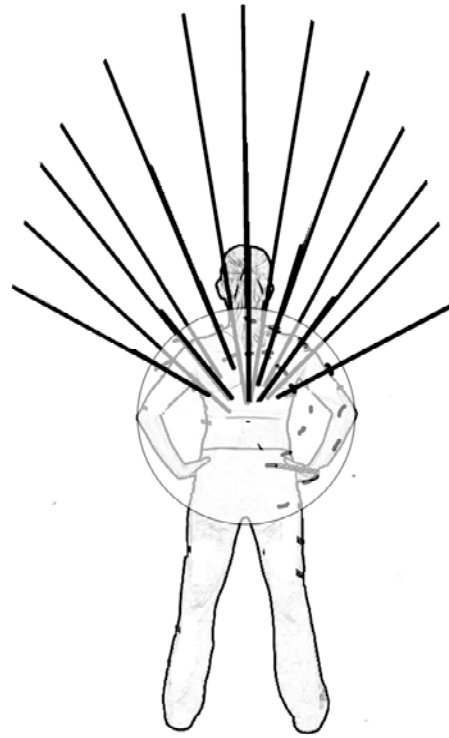
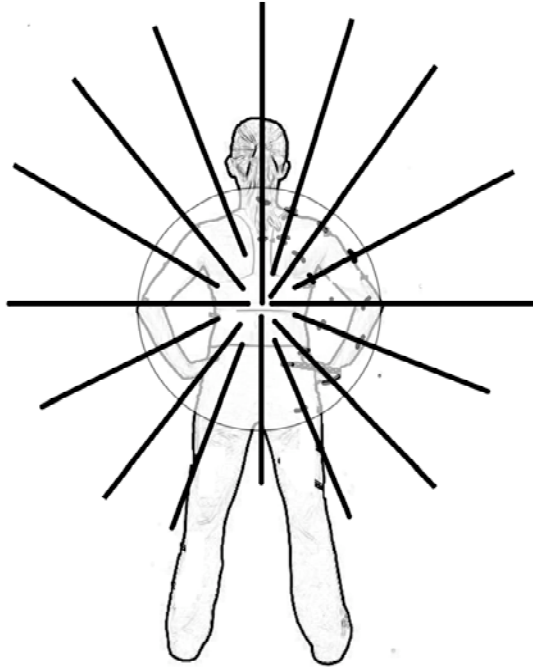
These are the key to real carnival spectacle. They add width and height and lots of colour. The larger they are made to be the better.

The secret is in the backpack: This is a frame taken from a rucksack. Or you can make your own as shown here



There should be a lightweight disc of ply or sheet plastic attached to the frame- or if you fancy the weight, a bicycle wheel. Fixed firmly to this disc are lots of garden canes, or willow wands or similar in a radial pattern like bicycle wheel spokes or in an upwards fan pattern as shown below

Garden canes cable-tied to lightweight disc on rucksack frame



In its simplest form, these rods and the disc can be painted, covered in glitter and ribbons. The ribbons can drape to the floor or can be wound spider-web fashion around the rod structure.

More elaborately and expensively, they can have a large number of feathers attached. You might try using old CD's and DVDs, which reflect beautifully. An excellent material is cheap foil gift wrap which is highly mirrored on the inside and really cheap. If you like, you can fix lots of Christmas LED's powered by a motor-cycle battery in the backpack. This would look amazing at night, but not be too good in the summer sun

If you are a bit of an engineer you could make the disc move making the entire effect mobile. This is done by pivoting the disc in the middle and attaching a couple of strings to the edge, or attach the rim to your elbows. Make sure it can't move too far or it will be unwieldy.



Idea: If you get five different colours of fabric, 1 meter wide and two metres or more long. Bunch up one end up of each and attach it to the top end of a rod, then bring it down in an elegant swag to the centre of the back wheel. Other thinner pieces can be between the rod ends and your wrists

MAKING A CARNIVAL HALO:

Circle of card with lots of feathers attached with a smallish hole in the middle. Attach a couple of scrunchies to the hole. Put your hair in a bun and push the halo over. Secure it with the scrunchies. No bun? Attach it to your head with flesh coloured forehead elastic .

MAKING FAN WINGS

The pleated, folded wings are wrapped around yourself like a cloak. The top of the fan needs stiffening with a stick with a couple of wrist loops so that your hands are free. When you open the wing cloak out, it's a huge effect. A glamorous gown underneath is quite spectacular if you don't fancy wearing what this woman isn't! The limit is your imagination.



CARNIVAL FACE AND BODY PAINTING

First a warning: please use the best quality paints you can find. Ensure that they are designed for the job and preferably non-allergenic. The same precautions that apply to cosmetics should be observed. If the skin shows any sign of allergy from a paint its use should immediately be ceased. Moreover, it should not be applied onto open wounds, nor should it be applied too close to the eyes. It is not advisable to use paints or products which have not been formulated for use on the body as these can result in serious allergic reactions. Some people may be very allergic to Latex, which maybe used as body paint and allows although wearing latex for a prolonged period may cause heat stroke by inhibiting perspiration and care should be taken to avoid the painful removal of hair when the latex is pulled off.

.As for Mehndi, natural brown henna dyes are safe to use when mixed with ingredients such as lemon juice. However, a commonly marketed product called "black henna", is not safe to use because the product has been made by mixing natural henna with synthetic black dyes containing PPD, which can cause serious skin allergies, and should be avoided due to the substantial risk of serious injury. Another option is Jagua, a dark indigo plant based dye that is safe to use on the skin and is approved for cosmetic use in the EU.

Manufacturers of widely available professional body and face paint include: Kryolan, MAC-Pro, Mehron, Snazaroo, Wolfe Face Art & FX, Diamond FX, Grimas, Ben Nye and Fardel. Google these names for reliable products

Be bold and big. Paint everywhere that can be seen. You might want to make sure that a friend is in the park at the end of the procession with a warm wrap though, it could be a little chilly walking through the town to the car park at nine at night if you stay for the whole party!

Contrary to the popular myth perpetuated by the James Bond film Goldfinger, a person is not asphyxiated if their whole body is painted!



MARDI GRAS COSTUMES FOR MEN

The name of the game here is either masculinity (see top left picture below) OR spectacle and power through lavishness with big blocks of colour



Other male costumes might include superheroes, Aliens, Historical or military. The same health warnings apply to men as well as women!

Tie Dyeing and Spray painting

This can be a great effect. Get some cheap boiler suits and spray paint or tie -dye them into fantastic colours. Here's how.

The whole point of tie dyeing is to prevent the dye from reaching the fabric evenly. Any place that the dye can't reach will stay white, or the original colour, of course. The idea is that you pleat, fold or twist some fabric, secure it with rubber bands or string and dip it into a brightly coloured dye such as cold-water Dylon, following the manufacturers instructions carefully. When you pull it out and undo the strings you will see some amazing patterns. If you want you can retie in a different way and re-dye with a different colour

You can also dip a whole skirt-length piece of fabric into the dye and slowly withdraw it. The gradations of colour from intense to light can be beautiful.

The material needs to be fixed, or the colour will run terribly especially if (it won't!) rains. The manufacturers data sheets will tell you how to deal with different sorts of fabrics.

Alternatively, COVER ALL EXPOSED PARTS OF YOUR BODY, WEAR GOGGLES and

get someone to spray paint or brush designs and swirls on your boiler suit. Or just put down a tarpaulin and have a paintball or paintbrush spatter battle...

Painted carnival masks

You can buy blank masks online from a lot of sites such as Amazon. Just Google “blank masks”, or you could try Bags’o Fun in Head Street. You will need acrylic paints, paintbrushes, variety of styles, cup of water, paper towel, glitter, and optionally feathers, sequins, jewels etc.

Lay the mask on a flat surface and apply the base color with a paintbrush. The base color is the color that appears most on the face. Sprinkle on a matching glitter color over the wet paint and allow paint to dry for 10 to 15 minutes.

Paint on the second most prominent color with a smaller, detail brush. A smaller brush makes it easier to accurately paint on the design. Sprinkle on matching glitter color over the wet paint and allow paint to dry for 10 to 15 minutes before applying the next color.

Paint on any small detail colors and sprinkle on glitter that matches the paint color. Avoid applying two coats of wet paint on at the same time, because the paint colors will mix with each other. Then you can add any extra decoration

Take a traditional approach by painting your mask bone white. Emphasize the eye area by painting around the eye holes with black paint. Make the lips pop by painting them blood red. Spend time creating a saucy cupid's bow for a perfect pout. Add a pink circle on the apple of each cheek for a flirtatious flush. Glue iridescent tear drops under the eyes to finish to the china-doll design.

Boast your bold side by painting the mask in bright primary colors. Paint a large diamond pattern onto the mask using black paint. Make the lines 1/4-inch thick. Fill in the diamond shapes with primary-colored paints, alternating colors to create a kaleidoscope effect. Dip a fleur-de-lis rubber stamp into black paint, and stamp it onto a few diamonds. Repeat the stamping with gold paint to top off the lavish look.

Create a gilded masterpiece using metallic acrylic paints. Apply a gold basecoat to the mask. Let dry. Add small silver swirls and vines around the eye area to draw attention to this spot. Glue small fake diamonds or other gemstones onto the mask to complete the extravagant look.

Masks can be attached by elastic or fixed to a stick and held up Venetian-style



Other masks

A plain mask covered in small pieces of mirror mosaic (available for any tile shop) can look fantastic. You can extend this concept to the costume as well. Masks don't have to be beautiful, they can be fantasy-themed as well



Buying Ready Made Masks

Again, look on line, or locally, there is a company called Foxy Frocks in Cowdray Centre that supplies masks at a variety of prices ranging from the very cheap to the very expensive.

2/BLOCK A/COWDRAY CENTRE, COWDRAY AVENUE : 01206 545247

Online: Regent Gifts

<https://www.regentgifts.co.uk/venetian-masquerade-masks-c-500.html?gclid=CMKArqOlj6cCFcoe4QodxAJzbg>



Blue Moon masks

<http://www.bluemoonmask.com/?gclid=CMzdtLqj6cCFQZO4Qod-kuVcQ>

MAKING PAPER OR FABRIC FEATHERS

For carnival, feathers need to be big and bold. They can be as small at 10" or as big as a metre high

Here is a brilliant set of instructions from <http://markmontano.typepad.com/mark-montano/2010/07/feather-your-nest-with-these-simple-paper-feathers.html>

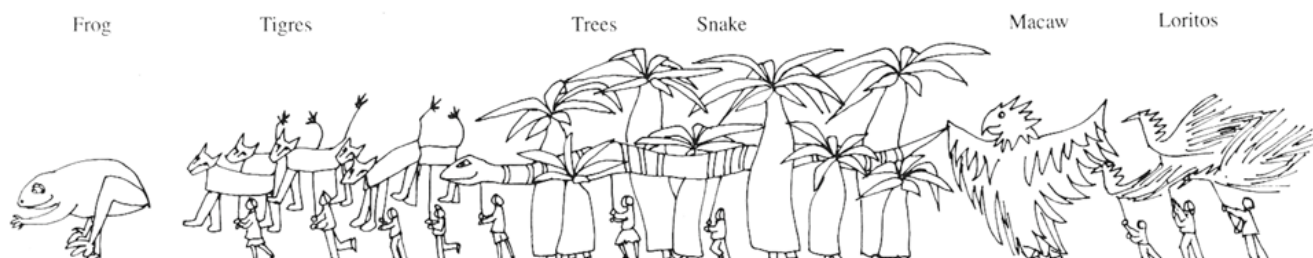
	<p>STEP 1: Cut out a piece of craft paper that is 18" long by 7" wide and fold in 1/2 lengthwise and cut out the shape of a feather. Tapered to a point at the bottom and rounded at the top. Do this with the paper still folded so the feather is the same on both sides.</p>
	<p>STEP 2: With the paper still folded, start making small slanted cuts very close together to about 1/2 from the fold. SUGGESTION: The closer your cuts are together the more feather-like your plumes will become.</p>
	<p>STEP 3: Next you will make the shaft by rolling a piece of 2" x 5" craft paper in a long tube and gluing the end of it to keep it together. Cut a piece of wire the length of the feather and glue about 1" of the end of the wire in the smaller end of the shaft.</p>
	<p>Lay the wire in the crease of the feather and glue down.</p>
	<p>When the feather is dry, gently curve the wire like you see in the photo. About 5 of these makes a terrific arrangement. More.....Even better!</p> <p>It would be an excellent idea to varnish them, so that the unreliable British weather</p>

MAKING GIANT ROD PUPPETS

This is ambitious but very effective. The basic concept is a puppet between 8' and 20' high supported by one or more poles carried by operators. An operator might support one armpit with the one hand and with a shorter rod in the other hand operate the hand or elbow, the other operator the other side. Perhaps the puppets feet are tied to an operators ankle: or there could be four people with a part of the puppet each. Another approach might be having a single pole supporting a more static puppet. The pole could be supported by being attached to the frame of a backpack. A frame can be removed from a second hand rucksack or made from scratch like the one shown a couple of pages back

If you have a lot of people, why not consider making a mini-procession using lots of thematically-related items.: here are some tasters,. You can find the building instructions from the puppet resource site - a massive site with all kinds of ideas and instructions.. <http://www.gis.net/~puppetco/>

This one is about jungles

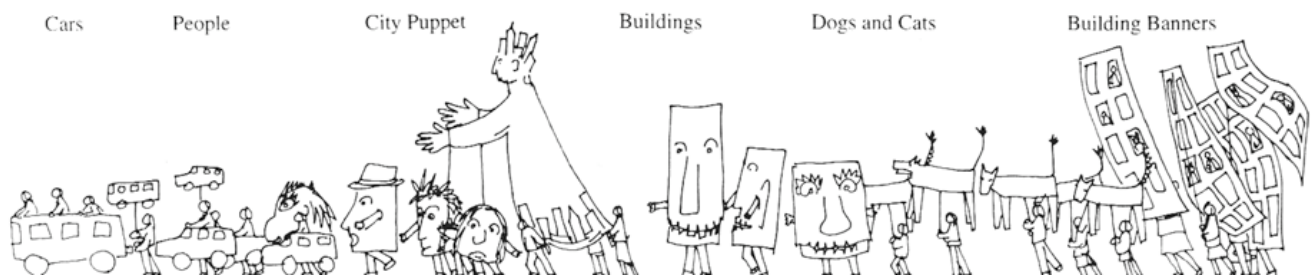


This procession below is all about the sea.



This one is called "Urbanity"

Perhaps someone might like to coordinate Colchester buildings, the Castle, Jumbo and so on?



There are some great pictures of the Hillsborough parade on <http://www.flickr.com/groups/handmadeparade2010/>

Some interesting video can be seen on

[file:///localhost/<iframe title="YouTube video player" width="480" height="390" src="http://www.youtube.com/embed:gC9Bf1wC33M" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>](file:///localhost/<iframe title='YouTube video player' width='480' height='390' src='http://www.youtube.com/embed:gC9Bf1wC33M' frameborder='0' allowfullscreen></iframe>)

THE ENGINEERING and ANIMATRONICS APPROACH

There are plenty people out there in Colchester and district who are perfectly capable of making something truly special. In the last few years we have seen huge elephants, giant animatronics tigers, amazing trotting horses and walking spiders. These are admittedly, big big projects, but they all came from someone's imagination and a lot of time spent in the scrapyard and back shed welding and painting.

The starting point is in the base, which can be either hand pulled, like a boat trailer or a flat bed haywaggon or motorized with electric motors, such as an adapted milk float or golf buggy. Then a frame can be made and the superstructure in the shape of an animal added. The whole secret is in the movement. An operator inside with some simple levers and linkages can make the head move from side to side, the mouth open and shut . Another can make a tail wag, and others can make legs move. Flashing lights can be put into the eyes and a smoke machine added to create breath. A sound system making suitable sounds is a must!

Here are photographs of Kinetika's Tiger and the Emperor and the Liverpool Spider



All the above photographs were from Kinetika <http://www.kinetikaonline.co.uk/> where there are many more photographs of carnival related things on their gallery pages. You could also look at Emergency Exit Arts at . <http://www.eea.org.uk/>

Walk the Plank at <http://www.walktheplank.co.uk/>

And of course the Luton centre for carnival Arts at <http://www.lcadt.com/carnivals/>

These companies can be hired to hold workshops in any aspect of outdoor events or carnival arts.

So come on, have a go. If you have any skills in pneumatics, hydraulics, motors and control systems, find a few friends to have the time of their lives.

USING BALLOONS

These are invariably best used in quantity rather than individually.

Balloon arches:

Make an arch out of willow or cane and attach balloons to it all the way up. Helium filled balloons are best of course, but air-filled are fine too.

If you are using helium balloons, you can simply attach them in a line close together on a piece of string or rope and simply attach each end of the rope to the float sides or to a piece of stick forming the bottom of the arch and carrying it.



Balloon Hearts

To make a balloon heart you will need a sturdy frame made of strong wire or bent cane, or if you have the technology, metal. Use five inch balloons for best effect, using two similar colours for best effect, such as pear and white or red and pink. Tie them together in

clusters of four and then secure them to the frame both sides. You could add a bow or hang multiple florists ribbon curled pieces.

Balloon Costumes

Get hold of a cheap boiler suit or a long skirts and top and sew small brass rings to it, or attach lots of short pieces of cord to the fabric, then get a friend to attach lots of small balloons to them. Beware people with a sense of humour and lighted cigarette!

Suppliers: Balloons and Gas

Bags O'Fun, Head Street Colchester <http://www.bagsofun.co.uk/>

1st Stop Party Shop, St Bololphs Street Colchester

ITI Uk Tel: 01206 790300 - Block 2a Commerce Wy, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8HH

Brilliant Balloons Tel: 01206 530008 - 9 South Street, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7BL

USING POLYSTYRENE

Polystyrene blocks are great, easily carved and light. You can get large thick sheets from building suppliers or packaging companies. If you can get the fire retardant type so much the better. Alternatively lots of industries might have left-over scraps.

To carve them use, a saw to block them out roughly and then a coarse rasp to get them to final shape. You can also use a hot knife, or a hot cutter. These can be made from an old soldering iron. Cut a slit down the tip and insert a curved blade made from a piece of thin steel plate. Then just squeeze it together in the vice (most tips are made from copper). Make sure you only use it somewhere where there's plenty of ventilation! (By putting the curve in the blade, it means you can scoop/peel/flatten. If you use a straight blade, you can gouge/slice/flatten, but it not as easy to peel layers off)

Polystyrene can be glued using PVA or better still strong versions such as no-more-nails or Unibond.

When you have carved your rock or tree or whatever, it is best to cover treat it with a suitable filler to create the surface you need.

You can use Idenden Brush Coat or Rosco Foam Coat, all the information is from Flints Hire and Supply data sheet at

http://www.flints.co.uk/pdfcatalogue/textures_and_fillers.pdf

Now you can paint it in emulsion or scene paint BUT NOT CAR SPRAY PAINT! This will simply melt it horribly. Mind you I have made great Halloween skulls that way, with the eye sockets melted out with red paint.

Polystyrene, and all the fillers can come from FLINT HIRE & SUPPLY LTD

Tel: 020 7703 9786 Email: sales@flints.co.uk



MAKING A PARADE BANNER

A Parade banner is an important part of being in a carnival It says who you are, what you are all about and where you are from.

To make something that is really good you have to think about a few things

- 1) What materials are you going to use? This depends on whether you want to store it and use it again and again. Ideally, a good quality white scenic canvass is best and reasonably cheap. You can find suppliers online if you just Google “scenic canvass” On the other hand sheeting is fine too, and you can often find good size offcuts and remnants in Fabric8 in Head Street or in Franklins. Jacks Stores in St Nicholas Street has bed sheets very cheaply. Please don't use paper unless it's a very heavy paper and its is well varnished - even then the slightest rain will destroy it or at least make it too heavy to carry.
- 2) How is it constructed? There are basically three methods
 - a) One is to use vertical and top poles as in picture No 1 below. You will need to create some pocket hems in the sides to accept the poles. The poles themselves: you can use garden canes, although they are quite thin and not so easy to grip: or you can use dowels or square softwood from the timber merchant or plastic or steel electrical conduit or plumbing pipe from any electrical or plumbers supply wholesalers
 - b) a single to pole held by two people like pictures 3 and 4.. You need to create a top pocket or use café-curtain style fabric loops. If you do this I recommend that you also make bottom and side pockets and slip some stiffening poles into these to keep it from puckering.
 - c) A single pole vertical banner. These are made by firmly attaching a cross piece to a vertical pole and hanging a banner using café-curtain loops. You need to attach rings or loops to the centre line at the back of the banner at intervals. The pole passes through these. You can make a decorative finial or cap for the vertical pole
 - d) An alternative to all this is that you can create a design on the computer and have it commercially printed on banner vinyl from local or online banner printers.
- 3) How many people to carry it? There muse be at least two on every banner, unless it is a simple vertical banner with single pole If it is a high banner, you need to

think about the wind loading? How do we stop it being like a giant sail and blowing away? You need to think about guy ropes, and people to hold them.

- 4) Is it going to be painted? appliquéd or embroidered? If painted remember to seal the material first with a couple of good coats of paint front and back and let it thoroughly dry, otherwise the design on the front will leach through to the back and not look good. Ensure that all paints and materials used are water resistant. Emulsion is ok, acrylic is fine. You will be most disappointed if your colour runs. So don't use poster colours!
- 5) Making it look good. Use simple designs and bright colours. Use an overhead projector to help you put the words and pictures on the banner. Use thumbtacks to hang the banner on a wall. For the letters, you can print the desired size onto acetate and project the image directly onto the banner to trace it. An overhead projector makes it easier to draw your pictures or logos onto the banner, especially if you're not a very good artist. Paint the letters and pictures once they're all traced into the banner. Acrylic paint works on most materials, and it resists water, Sew felt letters and pictures onto a felt background to make the longest-lasting type of banner



FLOAT BUILDING

It can be challenging building a parade float, but it can also be fun! But- and this is important -they do need to be decorated properly. A couple of balloons or a bit of bunting will not do. advertising is acceptable but please don't make it dominate the whole float. With the right supplies, the right group of people and the right attitude, you can create an award-winning float and have a great time in the process. A theme helps. It can be a local building like the Castle or Jumbo, or a desert island with some palm tree, A ship swarming with pirates: anything is acceptable as long as its is decent legal and honest.



Here are some basic parade float building tips.

MECHANICALLY PROPELLED VEHICLES

The hardest part of this is to persuade someone to give you the use of a trailer. There are some firms in Colchester that are pleased to help, but it would be unfair to give their names here or they would be inundated. I suggest you keep an eye out for suitable trailers and note the name of the operator and if they are local, phone them up straight away and ask them if they would lend it and a driver for the day. There are alternatives: don't forget the smaller pickup trucks and utility vehicles which have an open goods carrying section which is big enough for a couple of people and some decoration. And there are small trailers which attach to family cars with a towbar. And also boat trailers. There are a couple of manufacturers of these in Colchester, try Googling them. But here is the thing,

you need to either have them a few days before so that you can decorate them, or be super-efficient and having everything planned within an inch of its life so that you can get that vehicle decorated.

Decoration: Here are some tips:

A fringe helps conceal the float wheels and gives the float the illusion that it is truly “floating”. You just want the fringe to “brush” the ground, so you may have to trim it to achieve the “floating” effect. Use swags of material on edges and corners to add the final touch to your float.

Making sculptural shapes, Trees, rocks, etc

You need to start with a frame made out of timber, cane, willow, chicken wire etc. and cover it in something. There are several approaches:

- Wet strength tissue soaked in PVA. Sometimes using Clingfilm first makes a better surface
- MODROC - a very useful plaster of Paris bandage material that can be moulded to practically any shape. There are lots of tips on how to use it here <http://www.modroc.com/modroctips.htm>
- Galvanised and Chicken Wire – You can buy this at Jacks or Ernest Does at the Hythe or many DIY outlets . Secure the chicken wire to the framework by either stapling or nailing it.. Galvanised wire very useful for binding things together. Plastic cable ties are great for this too. Flexible wire coat hangers can also be employed. Wire and sculptors materials (including MODROC) Alec Tiranti Ltd, 27 Warren Street, London. W1P 5DG 020 7636 8565
- Brown gumstrip, hard to find and hard on the tongue (so use a sponge) but great for binding willow.

A standard van like a Transit can be converted by manufacturing a fitted tent from sheeting. You must make sure drivers all-round vision is not affected. Also ensure that it does not interfere with the wheels. They can be painted with outdoor use scenic paint Scene paint can be particularly bright and colourful. However, ordinary emulsion will produce good results.

HAND PROPELLED FLOATS

Anything with wheels will do. But! Make sure it is light enough to push for an hour or more. Possible bases range from Supermarket trolleys (with permission) , larger industrial trolleys such as are used by B and Q for sheet materials. Then there are hospital beds, shopping trolleys (OK they are a bit small but will take a sound system) ,car trailers, boat trailers and mobility scooters. I have seen baths and office desks fitted with cycle wheels,

FLOAT BUILDING MATERIALS

The Resource Book ISBN 0 946513 05 8 from Emblem Books (01923 825 298) or West Herts College, Publications Department (01923 242 531). The Resource Book contains lists of many stockists offering discounts to educational establishments. Recycled Materials Newspapers, paper off-cuts, cardboard tubes, boxes and egg boxes; clear plastic bottle tops, curtain rings, wool and fabrics; net curtains, netting bags, discarded car seat covers (wooden beads), and beaded curtains; tin foil containers, wire coat hangers, old film canisters, buttons, ribbons and string; plastic bottles for shakers and maracas; circular containers for drums.

Willow Wands: When wet (soak overnight if possible) wands will become very flexible and can be bent into the shape to form the frames for various elements of costume designs and can be secured with ordinary masking tape. Jacob, Young and Westbury, J. Y. W. House, Bridge Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex. 01444 412411

Candle Makers Suppliers (for Batik supplies), Blythe Road, Olympia
Hays Colours (for larger quantities of dyes), Glengall Road, Peckham. 020 7639 2020
Selectascene Senographics for polyprint dyes. 020 8467 8544

Scenic supplies: Paints, PVA, Canvass etc

Rosco: <http://www.rosco.com/uk/scenic/ultimatte.cfm>

or Flints http://www.flints.co.uk/acatalog/paint_plus.html

OTHER WAYS OF ENTERING THE CARNIVAL PARADE

Form a CarnivalCrew of about six (but any number will do), register at colchestercarnival.com and choose a great name for your group and off you go!

Some ideas:

- Cultural Pride (Indians, Chinese, Afro-Caribbean groups etc
- Shakespeare Characters
- Majorettes and Marching Bands
- Scouts, ATC, Cadets etc
- Dragons, Gryphons, and other Mythical Beasts
- Aliens, Star Wars and science fiction
- Decorated Bikes, tandems, unicycles and BMXs
- Roller Skates, longboards
- Outrageous characters , Drag queens etc
- Pirates
- Vikings
- Fairies, elves goblins, leprechauns
- Pantomime characters
- Back to Skool! St Trinians
- All kinds of Dance, including , but not limited to, ballroom, tango, soft shoe shuffle, street dance, ballet
- Historical (Romans, Celts, Tudors etc)
- Farm, Countryside crafts
- Animals

FANCY DRESS AND COSTUME RESOURCES

Main Station, St Johns Street (opposite Weatherspoons)

<http://mainstationfancydress.co.uk/shopping/agora.cgi>

Simon Says St Johns Street Colchester (opposite Wilkos)

<http://simonsaysdressup.co.uk/>

1st Stop Party Shop, St Botolphs Street
<http://www.1stpartyshopcolchester.co.uk/>

Bags-o Fun Head Street Colchester (party Supplies and fancy dress)
<http://www.bagsofun.co.uk/>

Costume Call A19 Cowdray Centre Colchester- theatre costumes and fancy dress
<http://www.costumecall.freeserve.co.uk/>

Illusions Fancy Dress Earls Colne
<http://www.wewillfrockyou.co.uk/>

Body and Sole (Dancewear and childrens fancy dress) St Johns Street
<http://www.bodynsole.co.uk/>

BOUDICA? WHERE ARE YOU WHEN WE NEED YOU?

A special category this year is Boudica's Chariot. These can be made from anything with wheels, but must be pulled by at least two slaves and has to carry a red-haired Boudica to qualify! Oh, and no nasty pointy sticking out scythes on the wheels allowed!

Here is Cassio Dio's description: *Buduica, a Briton woman of the royal family and possessed of greater intelligence than often belongs to women....In stature she was very tall, in appearance most terrifying, in the glance of her eye most fierce, and her voice was harsh; a great mass of the tawniest hair fell to her hips; around her neck was a large golden necklace: and she wore a tunic of divers colours over which a thick mantle was fastened with a brooch. This was her invariable attire.*

So come and have a go if you are hard enough (grin) . Here are some previous Festive Boudicas!





MORE INFORMATION:

Dorian Kelly of Illuminati Creative Arts is the author of this work.

If you have a specific question about float building, Costume making or special effects for Colchester carnival, I would be pleased to help free of any charge.

Email: artisticdirector@colchestercarnival.com or telephone me, Dorian Kelly, on 07770 950964. Please bear with me if I cannot answer you immediately!

For enquires and design work not related to Colchester Carnival, or for workshops in carnival arts, theatre and TV lighting, audio and special effects anywhere, please see <http://www.theatrearts.biz/homepage.html>



EVENTS AND FESTIVAL MANAGEMENT, THEATRE PRODUCTION
SPECIAL FX AND LIGHTING DESIGN illuminati@theatrearts.biz

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