

Parwich Carnival & Recreation Committee Review, 2020 (by Denis Laycock)

The Covid Epidemic and resulting restrictions greatly affected our annual programme during 2020. A full programme had been planned, including all the usual events. One of the main aims of the Carnival Committee is to bring people together and to enable them to enjoy themselves. Our usual programme includes, amongst other things, the Carnival and fancy dress, children's sports, the hill race and the treasure hunt and barbecue on the final evening. And for years we have been honoured by a visit from at least one fun-fair.

Covid drove a coach and horses through our intentions, however. But the Committee - and Parwich as a whole - proved as resourceful as ever. Events were adapted and changed around, and we were able to put together a programme of sorts for the week.

On Wakes Saturday, when the village is usually crowded for the Carnival and Fancy Dress, villagers - especially the children - were invited to dress up as usual and to help decorate their homes. The judges - newcomers Mr & Mrs Jones - were driven round on the rear of a truck to view and judge the entrants as they stood in front of their houses. One or two of the Oddfellows paraded their banner around the village but there was no band, dinner, or procession. Later in the evening informal groups met - from a safe distance - on Parson's Croft- to a background of disco music. Considering the restrictions, we did very well.

Entrants to the Hill Race over Parwich Hill completed the course individually during the days before Wakes Week and submitted their recorded times to the Committee. The 'Treasure Hunt' went ahead on the Sunday with family groups and small groups of neighbours taking part, but of course we could not have our end of Wakes Barbecue at the Royal British Legion.

It was a somewhat truncated programme, of course. But Parwich had proved as resourceful as ever. The village was able to give itself a collective 'pat on the back' and say, "We still celebrated Wakes Week in 2020 - in spite of Covid!"

Later in the year we had to abandon our 'Carols on the Green' as no band was available, but a Christmas Tree was provided for the village on the Green.