

About Thornton-Cleveleys Gala

History of the Gala as we understand it. An Extract from the 100th Gala Programme. Thornton-Cleveleys Gala is now in its 100th year. Having first been, we believe, celebrated in 1898. We have two versions of its conception and how it was formulated. The first account of events has been taken from the Fiftieth-year programme. Our second version is remembered and disclosed by Fred Anyon to our Gala Chairman, Tom Croft, when Fred was a reporter for the Evening Gazette. The Fiftieth-year programme tells us the founders were local stalwarts including Mr W.A Hardman and Mr Walsh. Their intension was to hold a field day for a handful of youngsters on the lines of a club day. To obtain funds they solicited subscriptions from residents to provide refreshments and prizes for the races. The use of a field was obtained, and a local farmer provided a farm lorry and decorated horse, this was the only vehicle in the procession at that time. Fred Anyon's version tells us the Gala was developed by members of a Sick Club who paid a weekly amount into the club to cover any loss of earning or Doctors expenses to members and their immediate relatives. One of the regulations being that once receiving sick benefit they had to be home at 9pm each evening no matter what time of the year, this ruling was strictly adhered to and anyone not conforming was heavily fined. Each year at mid-summer they held their annual meeting in The Gardner's Arms, Thornton where a balance sheet was presented and the benefits subscriptions agreed for the following year after attending a Church Service at Christ Church, Thornton conducted by the Vicar the Reverend Eddie Meadows. After the business was agreed a fiddler came from Poulton and the jollifications commenced. The Sickness Club was an all-male affair and the initial starting point was the Tarn Gate railway crossing. The first stop on the route to Christ Church was the Bay Horse Hotel to pick up other members of the group. The Gala progressed according to the programme as the idea appealed to the local vicar who decided it should be a church event, He approached Messers. Hardman and Co to hand over the function, but they refused as they wished to keep it non-sectarian. Thus, the local Parish Council were approached and agreed in future to take the reins. The precedent was thus formed whereby the Chairman of the local authority convened a public meeting each year upon taking office. It is interesting to note that until 1923 each child received one penny upon entering the field, but this was doubled, and an orange added in 1924. The number of children catered for at this time had grown to eleven hundred. The introduction of a Rose Queen Ceremony was debated for a number of years prior to 1924, and it is recorded at that time during one of the discussions..." that the question of a Rose Queen ceremony be deleted from the proposed programme owing to the high cost entailed...". The following year, however, saw the advent of this popular feature. The first Queens were selected by the scholars of the Elementary Schools. A draw was held for the rota of the provision of the Queen and retinue from the five local schools. The first school was beach road, Cleveleys, who undertook the task of supplying the entire programme of this part of the Gala. During the years a very healthy competition was created, and the procedure worked very successfully for six years. Intimidation, however, was received from the School Head Teachers to discontinue this arrangement and of necessity the committee undertook the future selection and training of the children. This method has thus become the recognised practice, with

the exception that some neutral adjudication is now insisted upon. As recounted to Tom Croft, eventually the ladies and junior members of the family were involved with the decoration of their perambulators, thus the procession was born and the decoration of the individuals and vehicles, including bicycles, following this was the decoration of horse and carts with the children riding on the carts. All this occurred in the early 1920's. It is remarkable the few wet Gala days one can recall. Outstanding was the Gala in 1927 when owing to a severe outbreak of measles, particular amongst the Rose Queen and her retinue, it had been decided to postpone the coronation until later in the year. The Gala morning turned out to be quite fine, but after the procession reached the field the rain came on and it was impossible to proceed with any further part of the programme. The sports in their entirety were therefore postponed until the day of the coronation. A second procession was held later in the year on Saturday 23rd July, and the entire programme was carried through. One recalls the excitement of 1936. Following a dispute as to the right of the committee to select its tenants for the Roundabout site, the Showman's Guild two days before the Gala, set up a rival fair- and what a mammoth fair it was- in the immediate neighbourhood. Naturally the committee suffered financially, although the local population naturally supported the official Gala. The personnel of the organisation has changed as the years rolled on, but the inspiration and enthusiasm of the workers seems to remain permanently with the volunteers who take it upon themselves the task of providing this annual "joy day" for our young people. The Gala as we know it today (1998) Little has changed since the fiftieth occasion, other than instead of the cups of milk, oranges and the sandwiches, the children were given concession tickets to spend on the field. The cost of producing the event is approximately £6000. The Gala Queen, Princess and their retinues are chosen in January from any child living within the Thornton Cleveleys boundary, this being a legacy of the Urban District Council days, when the council donated £250 towards the expense of the event. In those days the participants had to pay rates to the council. Another big change from the 50th occasion is that in those days adult sports were held during the evening whereas nowadays out spectators drift away after about 4pm. At one period the Gala spanned over a fortnight of daily events but today people have so many events to enjoy. Some years ago, a Gala Secretary discovered these lines by John Masefield, which so aptly fit's the work "He who Gives a child a treat, Will earn a place in Heaven's seat"

Gala Day Itself

Gala Day: Sunday 14th June 2020

The retiring Prince Charming will raise the Gala Flag with the Gala Chairman at 10am.

The Queens & Princess's wagons to be parked up in Marsh Mill Car park by 10:30am on Gala day.

All members of the retinue are to be assembled by 10:30am on the grass outside of Thornton Library for official photographs.

All members of the retinue along with our visiting Queens will attend a short service of Remembrance at Thornton Cenotaph. 4 retinue members will stand post on the 4 corners of the cenotaph holding a single white rose, the Queen, Princess and Prince Charming's will lay flowers on behalf of Thornton-Cleveleys Gala – **all flowers are provided by the committee.**

All retinue members need to be sat on their float by 11:45am ready for the parade to start at 12pm.

The procession will leave King Georges Playing Field, head down Victoria Road East towards Thornton Village. It will then turn left on to Lawsons Road and continue to Trunnah Road. It will then turn left on to Fleetwood Road North and make its way back to King Georges Playing Fields for approximately 1pm.

The retinues will have lunch at 1pm – **provided for by the committee.**

The Crowning Ceremony will take place on King Georges Playing Field at 2pm and will last approximately 1hr. If the weather is bad on Gala Day, we will be using The Ashley Club, Victoria Road East.

Once the Gala Day events have ended retinue members are free to change into their casual clothes and take part with the stalls and Funfair.

The Committee & Contact Details

Dave Brady – Chairperson

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Holly Moorhouse – Vice Chairperson

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Sue Baker

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For any queries please use the details for Helen Moorhouse as the primary form of contact for the committee.

Social Media Pages

Website – www.thorntoncleveleysgalaofficial.co.uk

Facebook Pages – Thornton Cleveleys Gala and Thornton Cleveleys Gala Past

Facebook Page retinue specific – Thornton-Cleveleys Gala Retinue 2020.

Twitter Page - @t_cgala

Instagram – thorntoncleveleysgala

Rehearsal Dates

Indoor Rehearsals – The Ashley Club, Victoria Road East (If the weather is good on a rehearsal day the venue may be changed to King Georges Playing Fields, please keep an eye on the Facebook page)

Wednesday 6th May 2020 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday 13th May 2020 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday 20th May 2020 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday 27th May 2020 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday 3rd June 2020 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Outdoor Rehearsals – these are essential not to be missed

Wednesday 10th June 6:30pm – 7:30pm at Thornton Cenotaph

Friday 12th June 6:30pm – 7:30pm King Georges playing Fields

In order to take part in the crowning ceremony you must attend a minimum of four rehearsals, for main roles we do expect you to attend more than four rehearsals.

For our Gala Queen, Princess & Britannia, a speech will be given during the crowning ceremony. The full speech must be brought along to the first rehearsal.

Gala Dates

Poulton Gala – Sunday 7th June 2020

Thornton-Cleveleys Gala – Sunday 14th June 2020

Fleetwood Carnival – Saturday 20th June 2020

Singleton Gala – Sunday 21st June 2020

Lytham Club Day – Saturday 27th June 2020

Hambleton Gala – Saturday 4th July 2020

St Annes Carnival – Saturday 11th July 2020

Preesall & Knott End Gala – Saturday 11th July 2020

Bispham Gala – Saturday 18th July 2020

Staining & Normoss Gala – Saturday 25th July 2020

Costume Rules & Payment Dates

The committee are responsible for sourcing the outfits for all retinue members. The Queen, Princess and Prince Charming's will source their own outfits. For the Prince Charming, we do ask for a consultation of the outfit with the committee to ensure it matches with the retinue outfits.

The retinue costume ideas will be discussed amongst the committee and parents to ensure the costume fits the theme for the year. In previous years we have bought off the rack dresses and also have had them made for us. If you find a dress you think matches the theme and is within our budget please let Helen Moorhouse (secretary) know as soon as possible so we can get it looked into.

For the retinues we like them to all match, this includes hair. Again, if anyone finds any hairstyles that fit the theme/accessories and are easy to do please don't hesitate to contact Helen Moorhouse. If anyone is able to do hair that may be able to volunteer to do the entire retinues this would be a massive help.

Until full payment is made for the costume, they remain the sole property of Thornton-Cleveleys Gala.

We aim to try and make sure the full cost of the costume including accessories does not exceed £50. This does depend on theme and availability of dresses, if for any reason the cost would exceed this price it would be discussed with you directly.

A £20 non-refundable deposit will need to be paid for the costume at the first parents meeting on Wednesday 5th February 2020.

A further £10 will be due on:

Wednesday 4th March 2020

Wednesday 1st April 2020

Wednesday 6th May 2020

Rules for costumes

- 1) The costumes must be kept secret until Gala Day.
- 2) The children should get changed out of their costume if they are going on fairground rides.
- 3) The children should only drink water when in their costume and on the wagons.
- 4) All accessories should be handed in at the end of that week's Gala and will be returned at the start of the next Gala (this will depend on what the hair accessories are in case they are needed prior to doing hair).

Gala Queen/Princess Outfit

Dress – can be any colour and style

Crown – **Provided for by the committee**

Flowers – we advise to get artificial flowers as they will be used at each gala

Train – **Provided for by the committee**

Shoes – any shoes can be worn; we advise a small heel in case the queen and retinue need to walk a parade.

Britannia Outfit

Dress – needs to be a white dress.

Crown – **Provided for by the committee**

Flowers – **Provided for by the committee**

Train – **Provided for by the committee**

Shoes – any shoes can be worn; we advise a small heel in case Britannia and retinue need to walk a parade.

Prince Charming Outfit

Hat

Shoes/boots – comfortable shoes as Prince Charming does a lot of walking during the crowning ceremony for us. Also needs to be prepared in case they need to walk a parade.

Prince Charming costume should tie in with the retinue outfits and should be discussed with the committee. Please see our Facebook Page for inspiration from previous Prince Charming entrants.

The Gala Float

It will be up to the parents of the Queen and Princess to decide if they want to use the Gala float – if you do not choose to use the float you will be entered as a walking retinue.

The Wagon sides are stored in the gala hut on King Georges Playing Fields. It will be your responsibility to organise collection of the sides and storage of them during the gala season.

The theme of your wagon should match the theme for the retinue costumes.

Building your gala float can seem like a daunting task but we find it is a great way for all the parents to get to know each other when building it.

The committee will give you £200 towards your float – this excludes the need for new sides. We will assess the sides prior to arrangement of collection to see if new boards are needed. **The £200 will only be given once receipts have been handed over to our treasurer.**

You will need to provide your own drivers for the wagon for each Gala, they must hold a valid clean license – the drivers will be required to go to WBC wagon depot for a test drive of the wagon and to show license details.

When building your wagon at no circumstances must the license plate or brake lights be covered with any decorations or boards. If at any point we find out this has happened, you will no longer be able to use the wagon.

The safety of our children is the utmost importance. No child can be on the back of the wagon at any time other than during a Gala event. Children are only to be taken off the wagon when it is stationary. All children must remain sat down when the vehicle is moving during a Gala. Only water is to be on the wagon for the children. For the health and safety of spectators no sweets are to be thrown from the wagon at any point.

Health and Safety

1. No one must not be stood up while the float is moving
2. No items must be thrown from the float at any time
3. Only water may be drank on the wagon (apart from medical reasons)
4. The only other items that should be kept on the float are umbrellas/parasols (**the committee provide these**) and sun cream
5. Number plates and lights must always be kept visible on the float
6. Only drivers who have presented their documents to WBC can drive the float
7. The float must be returned to WBC in the condition it was found – all rubbish must be disposed off appropriately
8. A committee member will be present at all Galas to ensure safety of all children – they will wear a TC Gala Committee T-Shirt for visibility
9. A Limited number of parents may escort the wagon on the parade at a safe distance
10. It is each parents' responsibility to ensure their child is taken to and from the events – the committee are not insured to take another person's child.
11. Any disabilities/health conditions/allergies must be declared to the committee prior to the events so we can put in place reasonable adjustments on the day
12. Children may only get on/off the wagon via the use of a ladder – no child can be physically taken on/off. All children must be assisted when using the ladder

Use and Return of Gala Equipment

All equipment taken out of the Gala Hut must be signed out and signed back in on its return. For the duration the equipment is in your possession it will be your responsibility to look after it.

You will be liable for any items either not returned or broken.

It will be your responsibility to organise the collection of the float sides from the Gala Hut – please contact Helen Moorhouse to arrange collection.

During the Gala season it will be down to you to organise the storage of the sides.

All sides and equipment used must be returned no later than 5pm on Sunday 13th June 2021.

What is expected of you?

As a member or parent of our retinue we expect you to uphold our values; as for your year in office you will be representing not only Thornton-Cleveleys Gala but the entire town at various other local events.

Please ensure you are only committing to events you can 100% attend. This is firstly due to health & safety, as we have a duty of care to all children at Gala Events. Secondly food is provided at all events by committees which must be paid for out of funds which are already struggling.

If you are unable to attend on the day due to sickness/emergency situation please make sure you do contact Helen Moorhouse ASAP so we can ensure the committee are not thinking you may be missing and we can also let other committees aware for food and crowning ceremonies.

We are a community event with no charity status. This means we do not receive any funding to put on this annual event other than the money we raise as a community. Throughout your year in office we try to get the children involved as much as possible with the fundraising.

The various things we ask them to take part in are-

Selling raffle tickets/merchandise

Raising money at local supermarkets

Attending fundraising events such as our band concert etc.

Parents promoting our social media campaigns

And any other events that may arise throughout the year.

If you have any suggestions or ways, we could raise any extra costs please contact Helen Moorhouse as on average it costs around £5000 to put on this event. This year we also must fund the repair of our gala storage hut where all our equipment is held. This is a great priority to us this year and any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

Thornton-Cleveleys Gala Declaration pages

Childs Name _____

Age _____

Parent/Guardians Name _____

Address

Contact Number _____

Email Address _____

Costume Details

Name _____

Age _____

Dress size _____

Shoe size _____

Allergy (for materials)

Photo Declaration

On Gala day and throughout their year in office we will take a variety of pictures. These pictures are used to promote the gala and are also used for our website/social media pages/press. Each year we have our own programme where we take photos of the previous years retinues to include as a memory. Images may also be used on merchandise for the event or as keepsakes for retinues.

I _____ agree to Thornton-Cleveleys Galas Photo Declaration

Signed _____

Date _____

Food Declaration

For all the galas the respective committees put on food for the retainues. We need to be made aware of any dietary requirements or allergies.

Please give specific details below about any dietary requirements we need to be made aware of as we will use this to inform other Gala Committees.

Allergies

Dietary Requirements

Disability Declaration

If your child has any form of disability or health condition, please let us know. At Thornton-Cleveleys Gala we want to be inclusive to everyone and we can adapt the ceremony to cater for individual needs.

Disability/Health Condition

How does this affect the child's day to day needs

What reasonable adjustments would you need in place to assist with this condition

Declaration

I _____ agree to all terms included on the Thornton-Cleveleys Gala Parents Guide 2020.

Signed _____

Date _____