

Manorfield Detectives.



Here is a photograph from the 1930's. What do you think is happening here?

Can you tell where the photograph was taken? There is a tiny clue in the building you can just see on the left of the picture. Do you recognise it?

The picture shows children of Stoney Stanton taking part in the carnival.

I expect if you have taken part in the carnival, it was a float pulled by a lorry, not a horse.

Carnivals in England have been around for a long time, they were very common before King Henry VIII changed the religion of England in around 1534.

Sometimes they had been established because a fair came to a town or village, sometimes they began as church celebrations of a particular saint.

With the change from the Catholic faith to the Protestant faith and the creation of the Church of England, carnivals and fairs were seen to be frivolous (not having a value or purpose), and more frowned upon by the church authorities and many disappeared.

Nobody seems sure when carnivals began in Stoney Stanton. Sadly, no records seem to have been kept but we know that some of the early photographs show that the carnival was to raise money for the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

This is because before World War 2, there was no National Health Service (NHS).

If people needed a doctor or hospital, they had to pay for it. This meant many people paid money into a 'friendly society'.

They paid in an amount every week when they got their wages (this was usually in cash in a brown envelope).

If they needed the money to pay for medicine or a doctor's visit they could use the money they had saved with the friendly society.

One society which was active in Stoney Stanton was the Oddfellows Society which was founded in Manchester in 1810.

Many societies still exist today; our carnival has changed a little bit too, now the money raised is used to help groups within Stoney Stanton.

<http://www.stoneystantoncarnival.com/gallery>

Have a look at some more recent photographs of our carnival, who knows you might be on one of them.

There are a couple more pictures below.

