

Dreamland

MARGATE



Dreamland Youth Panel: Image by Peter Barnett

DREAMLAND TEAM NEWSLETTER September 2010: Issue 7

DREAMLAND YOUTH PANEL

This month we are delighted to introduce you to the Dreamland Youth Panel. The Panel is made up of pupils from our local secondary school, Hartsdown Technology College in Margate. Following a Dreamland presentation to the school earlier this year, 8 young people came forward to take form the Panel.

Panel members will act as ambassadors for the project and will be involved in a number of ways including documenting the project, information exchange and organising events such as a Battle of the Bands.

Having recently attended the school's award ceremony I can confidently say that our Youth Panel comes with creativity, humour and passion! More about the school via their Facebook page:

<http://en-gb.facebook.com/group.php?gid=138689792829114&ref=ts> <<http://en-gb.facebook.com/group.php?gid=138689792829114&ref=ts>>

OPEN HERITAGE DAYS

Dreamland opened its doors to the public for the first time since its closure as part of the National Heritage Open Days earlier this month.

Not surprisingly the demand was high with the event filling up in less than 24 hours. A second event was slotted into place organised to meet demand.

Heritage Advisor, Nick Dermott, gave an excellent talk and tour of the amusement park site, cinema building and animal cages. Supporters Nick Evans and Dave Collard contributed to the discussions about the history of Dreamland and the operation of the Scenic Railway. Our rides coordinator, Bob Preedy, gave an up-date on the rides he has been investigating for restoration.

Further into the future we intend to run a programme of talks and tours around the history of the site and its heritage assets, so there will be opportunities to see the site and watch the project progressing up and close.

ITS ALL IN THE PAST

The Dreamland archive continues to grow under the directorship of Mandy Wilkins.

This is both interesting and challenging as most archives are formed of existing collections and material but in the case of Dreamland much of the archival material has been lost or wilfully thrown away, the rest unsorted and uncatalogued. This means that our first task is to find as much information as we can from print sources (newspapers, flyers, photos, publicity brochures etc.) scan them and put onto disc. Alongside this we are recording oral histories of those with relevant and interesting personal memories of Dreamland, which give a unique insight into the Dreamland of the past.

We are making steady progress although the process is by its nature, slow. Our researcher Suzannah Foad is sifting through back copies of the Isle of Thanet Gazette for mentions of Dreamland and has so far consigned eleven years of these to disc. In addition Suzannah has been assisting members of the Trust with documentary evidence on a number of subjects.

The oral history element is also progressing, with a number of interviews from members of the public, making for some priceless memories of Dreamland.

The assistance of the public in sourcing material, particularly for the oral histories cannot be underestimated: we are constantly seeking new material, especially in print form or subjects to be interviewed and hope that this may encourage contributors to come forward..... you would be very warmly welcomed! Please contact mandy@dreamlandmargate.com



Following on from Mandy's archive update, some interesting finds have been puzzling Bob Preedy...

Can you date any of the rides – at least to a decade – and can you identify any of the customers at Dreamland? Equally, we may have this all wrong and the rides never were in Margate. I'm sure you'll know!

Exhibit One

Here's a group of very smart youngsters about to enjoy a ride on a circular device. Their teacher also joins in the fun. What period does this date from? Can you name the ride and when it first appeared at Dreamland. Was it here for a lengthy period and when was it sold?

Picture Two

This one takes us back a few decades to somewhere between the 30s and the 50s. The construction team is from "Willet & Baddeley". Was this a local firm and what other rides did they construct here? Could you name any of the four men on the picture? And here's the crucial question - what was housed inside the mouth? Was it the entrance to a Fun House, or a catering rendezvous? And once again – can you say when it appeared, was eventually demolished, what replaced it, or indeed whether it was actually a photograph from Margate.

Image three

Here's the good old Scenic in action. What's lacking in our archives is a sense of its arrival in town. Did a steam ship bring it in parts from America? Had it previously operated in the States or did a local timber yard provide the material for it to be constructed from detailed plans? Possibly the trains came fully built and the tracks was pieced together in situ. How many workers were employed on its construction? How long did it take to fully build – and why was it placed in that particular position?

If you can add any detail about the pictures, please do get in touch and hopefully we'll have more pieces for the Dreamland jigsaw.

DREAMLAND NEEDS YOU...

At this point we'd like to introduce you to the volunteers who have been working with us, in various roles, and tell you about the valuable contribution they are making to the project.

For the last three months Megan Sutton has been working one day a week in the project office with Audience Development Officer, Jan Leandro. Her area of interest is education, so Megan will now be working with the Dreamland Youth Panel on the Battle of the Bands and other Youth Panel events.

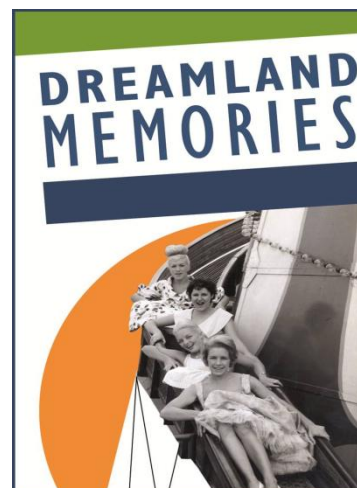
Meanwhile Suzannah Foad has been researching archival material for the Dreamland Archive Project and Liam Dermott is providing technical support with the recorded oral histories under the guidance of our Board member, Mandy Wilkins – also working voluntarily.

And, of course, Kapo with the Dreamland ice cream cart who has been a passionate ambassador of the project over the summer months.

Many thanks to our dedicated, skilled team of volunteers.

AND FINALLY...

Come and share your Dreamland memories in a FREE, creative family workshop with local writer and poet, Maggie Harris, here at the Media Centre, King Street, Margate between 10am -3pm on Tuesday 26 October, 2010. Fun for Nan and Grandad, Mum, Dad and the kids too! Places are limited so booking is essential on 07845 979024.



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