



Carters Steam Fair setting up at Dreamland ready for the Bank Holiday weekend. The park will be open on Saturday, Sunday and Monday 29-31 May 2010

## **DREAMLAND TEAM NEWSLETTER May 2010: Issue 3**

### **THIS MONTH'S TWISTS AND TURNS**

**by Bob Preedy**

A few weeks ago the Senior Investigator from English Heritage came to visit both the Lido site and our Scenic Railway. His report will look at the possibility of adding an extra star to the Grade listing meaning the Scenic could have even more protection. Our technical team also took the opportunity to inspect the complete structure from the bottom up. A 3D scan will take place in the next few weeks and from that an assessment will be made of the plan of action.

And it's action we need, certainly the momentum is gathering. As publicity spreads through the nation, a number of interesting offers are coming our way. Remember Billie the steam train? It would certainly be a most attractive proposition to have the train steaming around Dreamland - our fingers are crossed. Our Chairman, Nick Laister tells me that the original Dreamland Octopus ride is also on offer. Great ride if you like being spun round, down, up and sideways. Best not after a candy floss.

Another question raised at a recent meeting to what period do we refurbish the Scenic Railway – back to its state at the time of listing or to its original condition, with much cleaner visual lines when it was originally constructed in 1919? We also have to find some new trains as all the originals were destroyed in the fire. One set of cars came from Battersea Fun Fair's Big Dipper. The history of that ride was fascinating. Constructed at Battersea in late 1950, it had been for the previous season at Collins' Sutton Coldfield park. And prior to that had been stored through the war years at Southport where it was constructed in 1922 and operated successfully until 1939. If you have any good photographs of the most recent Margate scenic cars, please do get in touch. We may ultimately have to reconstruct them from scratch so any dimensions, artwork, weight, seating would be really helpful.

Another ride soon heading down to Margate is the Corbiere Big Wheel. This last operated in Southport and has since been in covered storage. Its weight is that of one and a half double decker buses. And it's the rarest of the big wheels because the base also rotates up to a maximum of 3rpm probably giving us the equivalent of a goldfish eye's view of slowly swimming around its bowl.

Every day in the office brings new surprises and challenges. We'll do our best to keep you posted on the latest developments. Any questions and comments always gratefully received.

## **CARTER'S COUNTDOWN**

**By Jan Leandro**

Anticipation has been building over the last few weeks as we eagerly awaited the arrival of Carter's Steam Fair. We were finally rewarded for our patience when at 3pm on the Monday before Bank Holiday weekend the first of the Carter's majestic vehicles rolled gracefully into Margate.

Bob Preedy, the project's rides coordinator, and Scenic Railway Brake-man, Dave Collard, have been on hand to assist with the set-up whilst the project design team have the opportunity to see, first hand, how these thrilling rides are expertly installed.

The James Messham's Wall of Death is gathering interest in its own right. Touring for the first time with Carter's this year we were able to include the attraction, which ties in nicely with the Margate Meltdown – the London Ace Cafe's motorbike rally from the legendary Ace Café in London to Margate's seafront and harbour area to showcase their bikes and scooters and raise funds for British Legion Riders Branch. Dreamland looks forward to building further on the great linkages Thanet District Council has forged with the Ace Café over the last three years.

The public interest and the support of our local businesses and partners in this event has been phenomenal. We are expecting a good turn out over the bank holiday weekend, so we look forward to seeing some of you there.

## **A WORD OF THANKS**

**by Jonathan Bryant**

Dreamland Trust is truly delighted that its association with Carter's Steam Fair has resulted in a trial run at Dreamland even before site ownership has transferred and work commenced to bring the Dreamland site back to its former glory.

Carter's Steam Fair is an exceptional venture dedicated to maintaining the values and traditions of the travelling fair. Its standards are exemplary. The thrills and excitement it offers its customers are second to none. They represent an experience rarely available in contemporary society it simply can be missed.

Dreamland Trust is grateful to Anna Carter, her sons Joby & Seth and to the whole Carter team which has made a very special effort to come to Dreamland over the May bank holiday weekend. Carter's planning is so precise that it arranged to bring the famed James Messham Wall of Death - a sure fired hit with the thousands of Ace Cafe bikers due in Margate on bank holiday Monday.

Dreamland Trust would also like to thank Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company Ltd which in advance of transferring the Dreamland site has kindly made it available for this tremendous event. And Thanet District Council for supporting the occasion.

Dreamland Trust looks forward to building on its association with Carter's Steam Fair and with Ace Café to bring further and exciting events to Margate.

## **...AND FINALLY**

### **INTRODUCING THE DREAMLAND DESIGN TEAM**

Landscape and urban designers, Whitelaw Turkington, have been appointed by Dreamland Margate to lead the design team.

Co-founder, Lindsey Whitelaw, comes from Kent as do both her parents and grandparents and is delighted to be leading the Dreamland design team on this pioneering project. She was responsible for the ground breaking award winning scheme in Ashford, transforming the ring road into an exemplar of urban design and shared, public space. The practice is also working on the masterplan for Chilmington Green near Ashford and have prepared a Town centre public realm strategy for Tenterden.

Award winning Guy Hollaway Architects [previously CTM Architects], based in Hythe for 40 years, have developed a strong track record for work in the South East including schools, cultural masterplanning and residential projects. Practice owner, Guy Hollaway was brought up in Herne Bay and enjoyed regular visits to the Scenic Railway as a child. His concepts for

# Dreamland

MARGATE

Dreamland are designed to help its visitors reconnect with their own childhood, stimulating memories for young and old.

Also on board is Creative Consultant, Jill Britton of Britton McGrath Associates who specialise in the leisure and tourism markets with a track record in senior marketing and board level management at some of the UK's most commercially successful visitor attractions including Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures, Warwick Castle, Madam Tussauds and The London Eye.

We are delighted to have such an experienced creative team working on the project who, in addition to their specialist areas of expertise, have good local knowledge and connections.

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