

The Early Years

Over the years Herne Bay Carnival has gained the reputation as probably the best Carnival in the region. Large crowds are drawn to the town's seafront and centre to watch the annual procession led by Miss Herne Bay.

The first reported procession was on 5 November **1880** when the 'Bonfire Boys' organised an event to coincide with Guy Fawkes Night. By **1890** the event was entitled 'Fete and Procession' and a few years later incorporated a 'Regatta'.

The event continued in this form until the outbreak of the Great War in **1914**. Two years after Armistice Day the event was relaunched as a 'Regatta and Fun Parade'.

1923 saw the town's procession led by a **Mr Herne Bay** in a chariot. Another change of image in **1926** saw the introduction of the now familiar title of 'Carnival'.

It was reported in the Herne Bay Press that on Tuesday 14 February **1933**, **MYRTLE FOX** became the winner of the first Miss Herne Bay competition held in public.

The contest was held at the Kings Hall, which was still the venue 67 years later in 2000. The selection for Miss Herne Bay up to the war years was held in conjunction with the annual St Valentine Ball with the crowning taking place at midnight.

One of the more famous judges for the **1933** competition was the film star Margot Grahame.

MYRTLE FOX took part in the town's procession in a decorated car and was accompanied by a number of Maids of Honour that represented the Central Academy of Dancing.

The **1934** competition saw **MYRTLE FOX** hand over her crown on Wednesday 14 February to **RITA JANES**.

1935 saw the Miss Herne Bay title handed over to **BERYL PEARMAN** who had film star Tamara Desni as one of her judges.

Film star Margaret Lockwood was one of the judges when in **1936**, **DOROTHY SCULTHORPE** was crowned Miss Herne Bay. This was the first selection that the Herne Bay Urban District Council had organised and they continued to organise both the selection and the Carnival procession until the late 1950's

1937 saw the fifth annual St Valentine Ball where again Margaret Lockwood graced the selection panel. **EILEEN KNIGHT** was crowned Miss Herne Bay and five Maids of Honour were also chosen in celebration of Coronation Year. Accompanying Miss Herne Bay **1937** during her year were **EVELYN FAULKENER, FLORENCE VILLA, LILIAN WATTIEZ, BRENDA GRIEVES** and **JOAN GLOVER**.

Coronation Year also saw a Miss Herne by the name of **JOYCE BUBB** who was accompanied by four Maids of Honour. Both Miss Herne Bay and Miss Herne took part in the town's Coronation procession.

1938 saw Walt Disney's first full length feature production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in multiplane technicolour and also saw **BARBARA NAYLOR** crowned Miss Herne Bay.

One of the judges for the **1938** competition was an up and coming actress by the name of Patricia Medina who appeared in Herne Bay by permission of Messrs Warner Bros. Pictures Ltd. and by arrangement with Odeon Theatres Ltd.

18 year old **BARBARA NAYLOR** was accompanied during her year by four Maids of Honour – **BRENDA GRIEVES, JOAN GLOVER, VERA STROUD** and **EILEEN WELLS**.

The St Valentine Ball was organised by the Entertainments Department of the Urban District Council and **1939** saw Marjorie Sandford act as one of the judges as **PAMELA GLOVER** was crowned Miss Herne Bay and **VERA STROUD, NORA CHRISTIAN, IDA JENNINGS** and **EILEEN WELLS** chosen as her Maids of Honour.

The 1940's

During the war there is no reference to a Miss Herne Bay Selection but in **1947**, 19 year old **CISSIE COX** was crowned Miss Herne Bay at the Central Bandstand on 16 August. Cissie not only won the title of Miss Herne Bay but also a gown provided by Clarabuts Ltd and a voucher for a perm.

JEAN DEVESON and **GWYNETH BOLTON** were selected as Maids of Honour and also won perm vouchers.

One of the judges for the **1947** competition was Valerie Sheldon who was Miss England in 1937.

CISSIE COX represented Herne Bay in the Miss Kent competition held at the Central Bandstand on the 30 August **1947** and beat 23 other towns being represented to win the title.

1948 again saw the Miss Herne Bay competition at the Central Bandstand and included another film star judge, Edana Romney. The 14 August saw **GWEN HALLIWEL** chosen as the 9th official Miss Herne Bay. Accompanying Gwen during her year was Maid of Honour **PATRICIA CLAYTON**.

The selection moved to July in **1949** and again saw a Central Bandstand venue. One of the esteemed judges this year was Muriel Hasland, the principal of the Hasland School of Dancing.

Maids of Honour, **EDITH FOX** and **MRS S DAWKINS** accompanied 19 year old **MAVIS PIGOTT** who was crowned Miss Herne Bay **1949**.

The 1950's

As the **1950's** approached the selection of Miss Herne Bay and the procession headed by the town's Carnival Court was a firm fixture in many people's diaries. This still remains the case today which is why the reputation of the Herne Bay Carnival can be found far and wide.

The selection for Miss Herne Bay **1953** took place in the coronation year of Queen Elizabeth within the Council Chambers and was won by 19 year old **DIANA CRABTREE**. Noting her occupation as a shorthand typist working in London, Diana beat five other contestants to the title. **VALERIE BARNES** who was two months short of her 19th birthday was given the position of Lady in Waiting or Princess as we know it today. Valerie worked for Messrs Riceman Ltd.

Points were awarded to the contestants for charm, general appearance, diction, figure and carriage. When the first round of voting had been taken there was found to be a tie, hence further 'tests' were endured after which Diana was announced as Miss Herne Bay **1953**.

1953 also saw a remarkable 175 entries in the Carnival procession which took place on Thursday 20 August.

Prior to the **1954** competition, the Herne Bay 'Sub Committee' agreed that with a bit of work the new Miss Herne Bay float could attend the Hendon Show. Two of the three appearances at the show were televised, including the 'Great Procession' on Wednesday 29 June, opening Herne Bay up to a mass audience.

The **1953** Carnival Court attended these events as the new Miss Herne Bay was not due to be crowned until July.

The **1954** contest in front of eleven Councillors was presided over by Councillor W P Parry and was held on Thursday 1 July and had thirteen contestants and again followed the format of private interviews in the Council Chambers.

VALERIE DRAPER, aged 16, who worked at Clovelly Nursing Home became Miss Herne Bay **1954**, whilst **JILL GRIFFIN**, aged 20, became her Lady in Waiting. Jill helped out at her father's newsagents shop and was noted for her talents as a dancer. She was also a member of The Coronets Concert Party.

The pair were officially introduced on Saturday 3 July at the final showing of 'Holiday Fanfare'. The audience even sang Happy Birthday to Jill who was 21 the next day.

1954 saw the procession led by the Hoo Silver Band on Thursday 12 August closely followed by the famous Miss Herne Bay 'Butterfly' float. Other Carnivals attended during the year included long journeys to both Hastings and Southend.

ANGELA WOOLASTON became Miss Herne Bay **1955** but resigned during her year and **JILL GRIFFIN** was asked to take over. **MAUREEN CROFT**, who won the Herne Bay Regatta Bathing Beauty competition every year between 1954 and 1958, was also asked to join the float.

JILL GRIFFIN went on to become Miss Herne Bay **1956** without a contest and was crowned on Friday 6 July. A separate contest took place for the Maids of Honour which was won by **MAUREEN CROFT** and **ANN HOGBEN**. The Court were officially introduced to the audience of 'Sincerely Yours' at the Pier Pavilion.

1957 saw six contestants wanting to be Miss Herne Bay. 16 year old trainee puppeteer, **JOSEPHINE BURA**, was crowned Miss Herne Bay with her Ladies in Waiting being **GLORIA ASKEW** and **MAUREEN CROFT**.

During the private interviews it was reported that one of the questions asked of the contestants was whether they rose early in the morning and performed any physical exercise! As a final 'test' they were asked to propose a toast to Herne Bay.

Again the Court were officially introduced in front of the audience of 'Sincerely Yours'. The Carnival in **1957** was held on Thursday 15 August and saw torrential rain throughout though this did not dampen the Carnival spirit.

In **1958**, 20 year old **MAUREEN CROFT** beat eleven other contestants to be Miss Herne Bay. **JULIE BRIGGS**, **JOSEPHINE BURA** and **SANDRA WATTS** (who gave one of her hobbies as bait digging!) were made Maids of Honour.

1958 saw Cecil B De Mille's production of The Ten Commandments in local picture houses but that didn't stop large crowds advancing on the town on Carnival day, particularly in the morning to see the arrival of the 'Pearlies' from London.

In **1959**, **DIANE WATTS** aged 17 was not only crowned Miss Herne Bay United Roller Hockey Club in a competition held at the Miramar Hotel on Friday 20 February, but also became Miss Herne Bay. The ceremony of election as Miss HBURC followed a pattern that was now in its twelfth year.

1959 also saw the Chairman of the 'Committee', Mr W A Dawson make a public plea for collectors. A decision was also made to attend Hayes and Harlington, Margate, Ramsgate and Whitstable Carnivals. All these would be welcome at Herne Bay on Carnival day, Thursday 13 August, as well as the Ramsgate Aqua Lovelies.

Supporting hairdresser **DIANE WATTS** during her year were **JEANETTE LUDLOW**, 18, and **MARGARET WAITE**, 25.

The judges this year included the Chairman of the Council, Councillor A E Tugwood and other Council members including his wife as well as Miss Herne Bay **1958**, **MAUREEN CROFT**.

Carnival day itself saw 'Ernie Bay' giving money to those who could 'spot him' and showed what hard work can produce when the creations of W W Smith and his wife were seen. Mrs Smith had for some 11 years been responsible for the 'turn out' but this year excelled herself creating colourful costumes for not only the Carnival Court but the whole entourage that followed - over twenty characters in total including court musicians, falconer and jester.

The 1960's

1960's contest was held on Wednesday 1 June and it was billed that the winner would definitely appear on Southern Television as the official entrant from Herne Bay for the Southern Belle Contest to be held in September.

A 19 year old secretary working in London, **MARY TURNER**, became Miss Herne Bay, whilst her Lady in Waiting was **STELLA DIXON** who worked in London as an accounts clerk. The Maid of Honour was **ANN MORRIS**, a 17 year old hairdresser.

A panel of Councillors and members of the Council's Public Relations Committee made the difficult decision. Miss Herne Bay **1960**'s first official duty was on the day she was chosen and was to turn the new £14,000 street-lights on at the Seaboard office.

Rain again was seen at the Carnival held on Thursday 11 August but the reappearance of the 'Butterfly' float cheered the large crowds. The day was completed by the Carnival Dance held at the Kings Hall.

'The Young Ones' was showing at cinemas when in **1962**, 20 year old **HEATHER WILSON** was crowned Miss Herne Bay. Her Maids of Honour were **CAROL MUMFORD**, a 19 year old hairdresser, and **JACQUELINE BLAKEY** a 17 year old clerical assistant with the Inland Revenue in Canterbury.

The contest was held in May at the Herne Bay Council Offices with eleven contestants all wanting to become Miss Herne Bay. Eight Carnivals were to be attended during the year which made Heather, a clerk in the Council's Health and Housing Department, a local celebrity.

Jacqueline's father, Alan, was at the time rehearsing for the forthcoming Herne Bay Operatics Society's production of 'Yeoman of the Guard' to be held during the first week of June. Alan Blakey compered the Miss Herne Bay contest in later years.

The **1962** Carnival Court was officially introduced to the town when the resident summer show opened its season at the Pier Pavilion. Carol Mumford also became the runner up in the Whitstable May Queen Contest held at the Tankerton Hotel in Whitstable.

The judges for the **1962** competition were from the Carnival Committee which appeared to set a trend for the next few years. The float was to be the 'Jewelled Casket' and an official launch would be held in the Memorial Park.

Carnival Day **1962** was led by the Queen's Own Buffs with their Corps of Drums. The Carnival Secretary, C G Frankling, reported that some 190 entries were seen and the Pearly King and Queen visit included Mrs Beatrice Marriott, the original 'Pearly'.

The Selection of Miss Herne Bay **1963** took place at Harveys Restaurant and took the form of a special meeting of the Carnival Committee. The event was held on Tuesday, 4th June and was won by the previous year's runner up **CAROL MUMFORD**, who was aged 20 and a hair stylist.

Maids of Honour for the year were **JACQUELINE BLAKEY**, an 18 year old civil servant who came second, one place better than in 1962 and **MAUREEN HOLDEN**, a 16 year old shop assistant who came third.

Seven contestants entered and those not placed were treated to a meal by Harveys Restaurant. Carol won not only the title of Miss Herne Bay but also, a summer coat, dress, foundation garment, a pair of shoes and a handbag as well as money from the Carnival Committee as did the 'Maids'.

The Chairman of the Carnival Committee, Barrie Smith announced that a new Miss Herne Bay float was being built and thanks was given to Arthur Fitt who had donated a caravan chassis for the project.

Carnival Day was on Thursday, 15th August and was started with the traditional 'champagne toast' to the Carnival float which was attended by the Pearly Kings and Queens visiting from London once again.

The Miss Herne Bay 'Sunshine' float having been launched, everyone moved onto the Pier entrance where sideshows were set up. All enjoyed partaking in such stalls as 'Lucky Top' and 'Treasure Trove' before retiring to the Council Offices for light refreshments before the Parade itself.

The 130 entries were led by the Band of the Royal Sussex Regiment and included nine visiting Carnival Courts. The day was finished off with the 'Gala Dance' held at the Kings Hall where entertainment was provided by Tommy Savage and the Satans and also Noel Davis and His Music.

1964 saw secretary **CAROL BOOTY** become Miss Herne Bay when she was elected at a special meeting at Harveys Restaurant on 12 May. Thirteen entrants wanted to be Miss Herne Bay **1964**. The Court was completed with a 16 year old clerical assistant, **MADLINE GOODBAN** and 17 year old tailoress, **SANDRA NEWMAN**.

The Chairman of the 'Sub Committee', Barrie Smith, thanked all the local businesses that had donated gifts for the Court which included dresses, shoes, lingerie and handbags.

Carnival day **1964** was dominated by the Miss Herne Bay 'Sunshine' float.

The Ballroom of Harveys Restaurant on Central Parade held the **1965** contest on Tuesday 4 May. The general public however, were not admitted to the venue.

JACQUELINE BLAKEY became third time lucky when she was announced Miss Herne Bay **1965**. Jacqueline was accompanied during her year by Maids of Honour **LINDA JENKINS** and **MELVINA BURA**. Linda was 21 and a

shorthand typist whilst Melvina was 17 and a student at the London Royal Ballet School.

In all, 18 contestants wanted to be Miss Herne Bay **1965** and were interviewed by the Carnival Committee. Barrie Smith, the Chairman, gave each girl a box of chocolates as a thank you.

Miss Herne Bay **1966** was **CAROL GOODSSELL** with **JOAN DAVIS** and **ELIZABETH NEWHEY** as Maids of Honour. They lead the Carnival on a float designed as the steam train 'The Queen of Kent'.

The contest in **1967** was held at The Cabin in Kings Road on Wednesday 17 May with nine entrants wanting to win the title of Miss Herne Bay. A 16 year old typist, **KATHY DOBSON** became Miss Herne Bay whilst the **1967** Maids of Honour were **JOAN DAVIS**, an 18 year old dental receptionist and 20 year old **ADRIENNE COCKRANE** who was a beauty consultant.

17 year old **CHRISTINE HODGKINSON** was chosen from 20 contestants to become Miss Herne Bay **1968** at The Cabin on 22 May. During her year Christine was accompanied by Maids of Honour **JILL POULTER**, 25, and **CHRISTINE WOOD**, 21.

In **1969** **MARGARET RANDALL**, a 19 year old travel agent, became Miss Herne Bay and **ANN GAMBRILL** and **BERYL WELLARD** became her Maids of Honour.

The 1970's

The **1970** Miss Herne Bay contest was the first to be held in public for some time and was held at the Kings Hall on Easter Saturday. 15 contestants were interviewed by a panel of judges including Rusty Goffe and Alan Blakey. **JANE WALLER**, a 19 year old Canterbury Building Society employer was announced Miss Herne Bay **1970** and **MELODY GISBY** and **SANDRA CLARKE** became Maids of Honour.

In **1971**, a 24 year old married mother of one, **CHRISTINE GILBERT** became Miss Herne Bay, whilst **VALDA GATES** and **CAMILLA SEAGER** became Maids of Honour. All three girls received cheques from both the Carnival Association and the Herne Bay Press. Their first engagement was to attend the Easter Parade in Battersea Park on the Sunday after their selection. This year's carnival had 146 entries including 14 visiting Carnival Courts.

In **1972**, **GIANNINA O'SHEA**, a 22 year old who organised boutique parties was crowned Miss Herne Bay with **ELIZABETH DAVEY** and **DEIDRE HILTON** as her Maids of Honour. The carnival procession this year moved to the August Bank Holiday.

A former Maid of Honour from 1970, **SANDRA CLARKE** became Miss Herne Bay **1973**. Sandra, a 23 year old senior drawing office assistant at Telephone House in Canterbury, was described by the Herne Bay Gazette as a "vivacious brunette who had poise and tremendous charm". **JULIE WALLACE**, a beauty student, and **FRANCES HOLNESS**, a bank clerk, became Maids of Honour for the year.

The **1974** selection of Miss Herne Bay took place at the Kings Hall and **SUSAN PEARMAN** won the title along with £25 from the Carnival Association and £10 from the Herne Bay Press. **JACKIE BELSEY**, a cashier at Liptons, and **FRANCES HOLNESS** became Maids of Honour, each receiving a sum of £15 prize money. The Carnival in **1974** was moved to a Saturday and attracted over 200 entries.

The contestants in the **1975** contest were interviewed by Southern Television personality, Peter Clark, and 21 year **VIVIEN UNDERDOWN** was chosen to be Miss Herne Bay winning cash prizes as well as clothing and other accessories. **SUZANNE EDWARDS** and **VERITY THOMPSON** were to be her Maids of Honour.

KIMBERLEY TAYLOR, a 16 year old pupil at St Anselms in Canterbury became Miss Herne Bay **1976** supported by **DEBBIE SEAGER** and Kim's step sister **SHARON TAYLOR**. Kim was later to become Sailor of the Year in the American Navy in 1986 when she was known as Kim Ridgeway.

1977 is probably best remembered for the Silver Jubilee. The year also saw 14 entrants in the Miss Herne Bay contest compered by actress Dora Bryan at the Kings Hall. 16 year old **MELANIE ROWE** resigned from her role as a Canterbury Princess so that she could enter and win Miss Herne Bay. She was accompanied during her year by **BEVERLEY LACEY**, **FRANCES HOLNESS** and **SHARON ELLIS**.

KAREN SAMPSON, a 16 year old pupil at Herne Bay Seconday School, was crowned Miss Herne Bay **1978** and won £40 from the Carnival Association and £10 from the Herne Bay Gazette. The Princesses for the year were **KAREN EVE** and **GERALDINE CLAYSON** with **TRACEY YERRILL** as Reserve Princess. Children were out during Carnival day looking for "Tom Twinkle" to see if they could claim a £1 note.

In **1979**, a married 19 year old groom from the Herne Bay Stables, **SUSAN BONNICK** won the Miss Herne Bay title along with a beauty treatment, a visit to Sunspot Sauna, a meal for two at the Marharani Indian Restaurant, a handbag from Lanes, shoes from McKenzies and a shampoo and set. Susan had been Miss Upchurch two years earlier. **ELIZABETH WRIGHT** and **GERALDINE CLAYSON** were Maids of Honour with **LINDA ALLEN** as Reserve.

The 1980's

TRACEY YERRILL, an 18 year old trainee dental nurse, became Miss Herne Bay **1980**, with **GERALDINE CLAYSON**, **ROBERTA WEAVER** and **GINA POULTER** as her Princesses. Carnival day saw an early start for the Carnival Court as they visited local nursing homes to take a piece of Carnival to those who would not normally get a chance to participate.

A 17 year old telex operator became Miss Herne Bay **1981**. **TRACEY MUMFORD** won herself £100 from Elyptic Systems, £40 from the Association, £15 from the Press and a wristwatch. Her sister Carol had been Miss Herne Bay 1963 and had handed her crown over the year Tracey was born. **ANGELA CHUBB** and **LYNETTE WRIGHT** became Maids of Honour with **CAROLINE RODGERS** as Reserve.

1982 was **JAQUI BANKS** turn to wear the Miss Herne Bay crown. She received £100 from Kentucky Fried Chicken, £50 from the Carnival Association and £25 from the Gazette. **JAYNE LONDON** and **KIM CLAYSON** became Maids of Honour with **TERESA McILVER** as Reserve.

The **1983** selection dance was compered by TVS newsreader Mike Debens and won by 16 year old Herne Bay Secondary School pupil, **DEBBIE SCAMP**. Her princesses were **JAYNE LONDON** and **TINA MANKELow** with **LUCY WOODGER** as Reserve. The Court were carried by the "Woodland Carriage" float.

One of the prizes won by 16 year old, American born, science student, **AMBER TAYLOR** in **1984**, was a free hair-do before every Carnival at the Regency Coiffure in the High Street. Her Princesses were **LUCY WOODGER**, **CLAIRE SCRIVENS** and **KIM CLAYSON**. **1984** saw the introduction of the prize winning "Blue Queen of Hearts" float. On Carnival day, Roger Gale MP had to pay a £10 ransom to get his wife and son back after they had been kidnapped by enterprising regulars from the Queens Hotel in their Carnival guise of Chicago gangsters.

17 year old **HELEN REYNOLDS** was chosen as Miss Herne Bay **1985** at a selection compered by Alan Blakey. **CLAIRE SCRIVENS** and **FRANCES DAVIS**, both training to become dancing teachers, came second and third with **KIM CLAYSON** as reserve. There was trouble this year when the Miss Herne Bay float was drenched with beer at Whitstable Carnival but there was nothing to spoil Herne Bay's own carnival day on 10 August.

In **1986**, Frank Montgomery pupil, **CATHERINE ROBERTSON**, aged 17, became Miss Herne Bay. **CLAIRE SCRIVENS** and **KATE RANKIN** were Princesses with **KIM CLAYSON** as Reserve. This year's "White Windmill" float had already won six first prizes at other carnivals before it was seen at Herne Bay's carnival.

In **1987**, 16 year old **MARIA JOHNSON** sat on the "Lucky Horseshoes" Miss Herne Bay float with **KELLY SALMON**, **JUDY STOKES** and **KERRY NEWLYN** to support her.

An experienced princess, **CLAIRE SCRIVENS**, won the Miss Herne Bay title in **1988**. Her Princesses were **KERRY SHEPHERD**, **KERRY NEWLYN** and **RACHEL PRICE**. Amongst the prizes this year were six driving lessons and a sauna voucher.

1989 saw **ALISON FISHPOOL**, the daughter of Miss Herne Bay 1964, become Miss Herne Bay 25 years later. Princesses for the year were **ELAINE HARGRAVE**, **MICHELLE SHEPHERD** and **CAROL GEERING** who joined Alison on the "Pretty as a Picture" artist's pallet float.

The 1990's

SARAH ROBSON, a 19 year old Barclays Bank employee became Miss Herne Bay **1990**. Her three Princesses were all 15 year old pupils from Herne Bay High School – **KATIE GEORGE**, **KATE DILNOT** and **KATHERINE HOCKLEY**. The weather was sunny for the Carnival procession but a couple of minor mishaps almost dampened the proceedings with a lorry breakdown, a badly parked car along the route and trouble with children being hit by thrown coins.

20 year old **JULIE-ANN CRAWLEY** was crowned Miss Herne Bay **1991** with **KATHERINE HOCKLEY** and **KATIE GEORGE** as her Princesses. Katie resigned shortly after selection which meant that Reserve Princess **CLAIRE HOOKER** became a fully-fledged Princess and **VERONICA MULLINS** took

her place as Reserve. The procession this year saw Miss Birchington and one of her Princesses abandoning their float to be taken by ambulance to hospital after coins had been thrown at their faces. Fortunately they were both released in time to attend the evening dance at the Kings Hall.

In **1992** all five contestants were chosen to represent the town with **CLAIRE HOOKER** as Miss Herne Bay and **NATALIE ARNOLD, SALLY HINCHLIFF, RACHAEL LOWTHER** and **VICTORIA WINGROVE** as Princesses. This year saw the “Jewel of Kent” jewellery box float used again. At the Carnival Association’s Annual Donations Evening Geoff Barr announced that he was standing down as Chairman – at this time he had been involved in Carnival for 32 years and had only missed three Carnivals but never Herne Bay’s.

In **1993**, **ESTELLE SMEDLEY**, a 21 year old bank clerk became Miss Herne Bay with **LOUSIE MOORE, VICKY PORTER** and **RONNIE BLEWITT** winning the Princess positions. Due to width restrictions on Western Esplanade, the procession this year, led by the ‘Jewel of Kent’ float, had to be re-routed around Albany Drive, Lane End and The Broadway.

KAREN EDWARDS became Miss Herne Bay on Easter Saturday **1994**. The Princess titles went to **CLAIR REEVES, MELANIE BAKER** and **JO ATKINS**. Demonstrators against the Kings Hall “raves” threatened to spoil the Carnival Procession but luckily did not succeed.

LOUISE MOORE, a Corporal in the 1063 (Herne Bay) Air Training Corps, was crowned Miss Herne Bay **1995**. **VICKY PORTER** and **MELANIE BAKER** became Princesses. The “Out of this World” moon and stars float led the parade and the court was joined by Lauren Jenkins who had been crowned Miss Celebration – a title created for the town’s VE day anniversary celebrations in May.

HAYLEY UNDERDOWN, daughter of former Miss Herne Bay Vivien Underdown, became Miss Herne Bay **1996**. **SAMANTHA FROST** and **JOANNE BAKER** were her Princesses with **BEVERLEE MAY** taking over when Joanne resigned. This year saw the “Chess Board” float carrying the Carnival Court.

In **1997**, **SAMANTHA FROST** moved up from Princess to become Miss Herne Bay. **DONNA BROWN** and **KATIE SAXBY**, both still at school, became Princesses. Samantha’s prizes included several cheques, a pass to Herons swimming pool, a Sally Line crossing and 25 hours of driving lessons.

DONNA BROWN, a princess the previous year, won the contest in **1998** and became Miss Herne Bay. Two pupils from Simon Langton Girls School, **LUCY STANNET** and **KATHERINE WALKER**, became her accompanying princesses. The float this year represented the clocktower and seafront and

the procession on Carnival Day was led by the combined bands of the Herne Bay and Margate Sea Cadets.

In **1999**, former Princess, **LUCY STANNET**, was promoted to the position of Miss Herne Bay. Her Princesses were **DANIELLE MUDDIMAN** and **BECKY TUTT**. Due to a selfish driver and a badly parked car, this year's Carnival Procession was cut short – many people from The Downs and Beacon Road were missed out and so to make up for their disappointment, the Miss Herne Bay “Clocktower” float and the Herne Bay Sea Cadet Band returned on Monday to complete the missing section.

Year 2000

The first Selection Dance of the new Millennium was held at the Kings Hall on Easter Saturday 22 April. The honour of being the Millennium Miss Herne Bay went to 15 year old **DONNA WILDE**. Princesses crowned on the night were **DANIELLE MUDDIMAN** and **SAMANTHA DALE**. All three girls were pupils at Herne Bay High School. Donna resigned in July **2000** and **DANNIELLE MUDDIMAN** took over the role of Miss Herne Bay with **HAYLEA SMITH** stepping up to become a Princess.

Between 15 July and 26 August Herne Bay Carnival Association in conjunction with KCC Arts and Libraries held an exhibition at Herne Bay Library detailing Miss Herne Bay - Past and Present. At the preview evening held on 14 July many ex Carnival Court members attended including the first publicly crowned Miss Herne Bay, Myrtle Fox. The exhibition highlighted details of the competition from 1933 and the comments book made available indicated how popular Herne Bay Carnival has become over the years and is very much part of local life.

The dawning of a New Millennium float visited numerous Kent Carnivals and headed Herne Bay's own Carnival on Saturday 12 August. The day was completed at the Kings Hall with the Carnival Dance with entertainment provided by 106 CTFM Radio.

2001

Easter Saturday 14 April again saw the Kings Hall as the Miss Herne Bay Selection Dance venue. 16 year old **BUDDY WILLIAMS** was crowned Miss Herne Bay 2001 with 17 year olds **GEMMA BROWN** and **DANIELLE MUDDIMAN** her Princesses.

With 14 entrants wishing to represent their town the judges had an extremely difficult task. Because Buddy's parents had arranged a surprise holiday for her she would miss five Carnivals so on count back fourth placed **LAUREN JENKINS**, aged 15 was asked to join the Court.

With the Associations launch of their Winnie the Pooh tombola fund raising outside of the Carnival is now even more important.

Saturday 11 August saw Carnival day and the Wishing Well float lead the procession. The Carnival was a great success and the day was completed with the Carnival Dance held at the Kings Hall with entertainment provided by 'Southern Sounds'.

2002

Easter Saturday 30 March saw Archbishops School student **LAUREN JENKINS** crowned Miss Herne Bay at the towns Kings Hall. Herne Bay High School students **PATRICIA ASHTARI** and **ELEANOR CHITTENDEN** became Princesses for the year. With all the girls aged 16 the Court won a number of awards during the year and helped launch a new style coloured Carnival Programme.

The Jewel of Kent float entertained crowds around Kent and lead the towns procession on Saturday 10 August. With the evenings entertainment at the Carnival Dance provided by Chairman Mal's International Roadshow a busy day was made complete.

2003

Easter Saturday 19 April saw 17 year old **PATRICIA ASHTARI** crowned Miss Herne Bay 2003. She was joined by fellow Herne Bay High School student **SABRINA MUDDIMAN**, aged 15 and Chaucer Technology School student, **JODIE BENNETT**, aged 15.

Though only six young ladies entered the 2003 competition the high standard caused the judges to deliberate for some time before the final results were announced. With the evenings entertainment provided by Island Disco Services an enjoyable evening enabled 2003 to commence on a high note for Carnival.

The Music Box themed float and the Court have won a number of awards already this year. The Court also helped launch the much bigger and colourful Carnival Programme priced at a very reasonable £1 and the Associations Website was launched.

During the lead up to Carnival Day, Miss Herne Bay was invited to tea with Miss Herne Bay 1933, Myrtle Pitt (nee Fox) to celebrate her 97th Birthday.

Carnival Day was on Saturday 9 August with over seventy entries and the day was completed at the Carnival Dance at the Kings Hall with entertainment being provided by Chairman Mal's International Roadshow.

2004

The Selection of Miss Herne Bay 2004 took place on Easter Saturday, 10 April at the towns Kings Hall with seven contestants interviewed by Jim Birkett (the inspiration behind some of the past Carnival floats as well as being the regular float driver), Donna Brown (Miss Herne Bay 1998), John Nurden (editor of the KRN's Herne Bay Times), Dianne Stingemore (Chief Reporter at the KM Group - Herne Bay Gazette). The panel was chaired by Cllr Michael Street-Williams.

The new Court won prizes from Cain's Amusements Ltd; Debenhams; Kings Catering; KM Group (Herne Bay Gazette); Reeltime Cinemas (The Kavanagh); Sandbar Consulting Ltd; Style and Colour Photography; Wahl (UK) Ltd and Wildwood.

With Selwyn Gauden compering his last Herne Bay Selection Dance and the evenings entertainment being provided by Island Disco Services the evening once again went smoothly.

15 year old Herne Bay High School student **JENNIE NEALE** was crowned Miss Herne Bay 2004 and would be accompanied through her year by Princesses **VICKIE HUNT**, a 17 year old office administrator and **ELLEN PUGHE**, a 17 year old waitress at the Punch Tavern.

Carnival Day took place on Saturday 14 August. Unfortunately slightly less than sixty entries took part in the procession with a number of regular contributors succumbing to the pressures of only having a few to organise their entries. However, the procession was again a resounding success lead by Miss Herne Bay and her carousel float.

The evening was made complete at the Kings Hall with the entertainment being provided by Harbour Sounds and an excellent meal by Kings Caterers for the visiting Carnival Courts.

Saturday 11 December saw the Associations Inaugural Winter Wonderland held at the towns Wimereux Gardens where local clubs, associations and organisations were given the opportunity to raise funds with Herne Bay Carnival Association planning and organising the event as a thank you to those that support Carnival through the year. With a wide range of gifts on

offer as well as a visit by Father Christmas the event was a success for all involved.

2005

Easter Saturday, 26 March saw the Kings Hall host the Miss Herne Bay contest with seven young ladies bidding to become Miss Herne Bay 2005.

18 year **VICKIE HUNT**, a petrol station forecourt supervisor got fourth time lucky as she was crowned Miss Herne Bay 2005. Vickie was a Princess in 2004 having been unplaced in 2002 and 2003. Her Princesses for the year would be **JADE ARNOLD**, 17, who still attended St.John Fisher School in Chatham having recently moved to Herne Bay and 16 year old Herne Bay High School student **CHLOE SARGEANT**.

Island Disco Services again provided the evening's entertainment though the compering of the competition was for the first time undertaken by a female compere. Andrea Oliver made sure the evenings proceedings went smoothly. Selwyn Gauden, the compere for many years was presented with a gift from Herne Bay Carnival Association having now officially retired from his compering role.

Saturday 13 August saw the first damp Carnival for many years but was again supported by thousands lining the route who braved the weather to support the Annual Carnival Procession where nearly seventy entries were lead by Town Crier, Derek Allen, for the thirtieth time, The award winning Herne Bay Sea Cadets band and of course Miss Herne Bay and her Carousel float which had won best float at Teynham and Ramsgate Carnivals and best overall at Canterbury and Ramsgate Carnivals, earlier in the Carnival season.

The Carnival Dance was at the Kings Hall with entertainment provided by Harbour Sounds where a relaxing evening topped a wet but thoroughly Carnival spirited day.

Saturday 10 December saw the towns Wimereux Gardens host the Associations Winter Wonderland II, which again provided the Association with an opportunity to allow other clubs, associations and organisations in the town to raise some extra funds for their causes. The event was very busy with a wide variety of fancy goods, crafts, tombolas and raffles on offer with of course a bit of traditional fayre in the form of mulled wine and mince pies. Father Christmas even found a few hours to attend to see some of the smaller children that attended the event.

2006

The Kings Hall was the venue once more as Easter Saturday 15 April saw nine contestants expressing a wish to represent their town. The Chairman of the Judges Panel was once again Roger Gale MP who had the difficult task along with fellow Judges, Doug Brown (Co-Owner of Style and Colour Photography), Geoff Gambrill (Chairman of Theatrecraft), Brenda Packman (Manager of the Visitors Information Centre) and Rachel Smedley (Proprietor of Kids Korner Toy Shop) of choosing the 2006 Court.

Whilst all the contestants experienced the private interviews with the Judges the evening's entertainment provided by Island Disco Services got into full swing. The busy hall was boosted by eleven visiting AKCO Member Associations attending with interest in the event compered superbly by Andrea Oliver.

The 2005 Carnival Court of Vickie Hunt, Jade Arnold and Chloe Sargeant bid their farewells having received superb framed prints from Style and Colour Photography and of course their replica trophies for undertaking their duties as ambassadors of Herne Bay for the year, before they had the duty of crowning their successors.

20 year old **JENNIE EDWARDS** was crowned Miss Herne Bay 2006 and will be accompanied during the year by Princesses, **BRIDE PRICE** and **CASSIE GOODWIN**. Jennie, a Charter Co-Ordinator was not placed when she first entered in 2001 but was really happy to be selected along with her 15 year old student Princesses. Bridie's mother was a Princess in 1988 so the family tradition of Herne Bay Carnival continues.

The Court received prizes from Asda Stores Ltd; Boots the Chemist Ltd; Cain's Amusements Ltd; Herne Bay's Largest £1 Shop; J.A.Dilnot Domestic Appliance Engineer; JCJ Table Top Fairs; KM Group (Herne Bay Gazette); Reeltime Cinemas (The Kavanagh); Sandbar Consulting Ltd; Style and Colour Photography; Wahl (UK) Ltd and Wildwood. Their generosity and support of the competition is very much appreciated by Herne Bay Carnival Association.

With a busy year ahead the Court had their first engagement at their official press photo-call at the Central Bandstand the following morning where a number of photographs and questions were taken and asked by members of the local press.

Saturday 12 August saw a Herne Bay Carnival started by the wife and daughter of Derek Allen, the town's Town Crier after he sadly passed away earlier in the year. Despite the worst Carnival Day weather in living memory

including a now known force eight gale prior to the start, thousands still lined the route to support those who braved the weather to still take part. With the Herne Bay Cadets band taking part in a national competition the Whitstable Old Boy Sea Scout band stepped in to undertake the important role of lead band.

The day was completed with a Carnival Dance at the Kings Hall with entertainment provided by Harbours Sounds Disco.

In a bid to say a thank you to the town for its support and to allow the younger participants for whom the Carnival Day conditions were too much a 'Mini' procession on Saturday October 7 was organised which started and finished in Wimereux Gardens, where the band Loose Change performed.

Winter Wonderland III took place at the same venue on Saturday December 9 and was heralded a success by all who took part with weather more akin to what should have been expected on Carnival Day.

A Carol Concert was organised at the Central Bandstand on December 16 in conjunction with keen Carnival supporters, Carol and Richard Bosworth to assist in raising some additional funds after they were depleted due to the Carnival Day weather. The event proved successful and was supported by members of Theatrecraft who led the singing.

2007

The Carnival Year started with the sad news that Mr John White, a long term benefactor of the Carnival Association had passed away, this sadly was followed in July of the year by the passing of the 1933 and first official Miss Herne Bay, Myrtle Pitt (nee Fox).

Roger Gale MP again Chaired the Judging panel for the Annual Selection of Miss Herne Bay and her Princesses which was held at the Kings Hall on Easter Saturday. The rest of the panel was made up of Ron Woodward, PC Karis Ingledew, Sub Lt Paul Fenn and Mary Hixson.

As well as being Herne Bay's resident Father Christmas, Ron Woodward is a keen supporter of many local organisations, and can usually be found at the head of Herne Bay Carnival in the moke. PC Karis Ingledew, due to go on maternity leave shortly has helped police at numerous Herne Bay Carnivals and in the last few years will have been seen on a police bicycle. Sub Lt Paul Fenn is one of the main reasons why Herne Bay Sea Cadets and their band are so successful and has assisted them lead the Carnival for some years.

The Chairman of Herne Bay Operatics Society, Mary Hixson completed the panel and it was noted that she has been kept busy of late with upcoming productions of the 'Sound of Gershwin' and 'Annie Get Your Gun'.

Whilst the nine contestants 'enjoyed' the experienced of the private interviews with the Judges the evening's entertainment provided by Island Disco Services was enjoyed by various visiting AKCO Member Associations attending as well as friends and family of the contestants. The evening was again compered well by Andrea Oliver.

The 2006 Carnival Court of Jennie Edwards, Bridie Price and Cassie Goodwin, referred to as the 'i.e.' team, bid their farewells having received superb framed prints from Style and Colour Photography and of course their replica trophies for undertaking their duties as ambassadors of Herne Bay for the year, before they had the duty of crowning their successors.

15 year old Simon Langton student, **ROSIE GEROLEMOU** was crowned Miss Herne Bay 2007, whilst her Princesses were 17 year old fellow Langton student, **EMMA FOSTER** and 15 year old Herne Bay High School student, **REBECCA WEBBER**. Emma's mother was a Princess in the years 1984 -86 so the family tradition of Herne Bay Carnival continues.

The new Court received gifts from Cain's Amusements Ltd; J.A.Dilnot Domestic Appliance Engineer; Heron Workwear; JCJ Table Top Fairs; KM Group (Herne Bay Gazette); Reeltime Cinemas (The Kavanagh); Sandbar Consulting Ltd; Style and Colour Photography; Wahl (UK) Ltd and Wildwood. Their generosity and support of the competition is very much appreciated by Herne Bay Carnival Association.

The special embroidered jackets provided by Heron Workwear came in useful on Easter Sunday for the new Court as they attended an extended photo shoot on Herne Bay seafront.

Saturday 11 August saw one of the best days for some year's weather wise for a Herne Bay Carnival. The 2007 Herne Bay Carnival was once again started by the wife and daughter of Derek Allen, the town's Town Crier to make up for the quite appalling conditions in the previous year. This in fact will have been the last time Derek's bell will be rung in Herne Bay to start the procession as it will near go to be with Derek's son who lives in France.

Thousands lined the route to support those who had taken part as the procession was lead by the Herne Bay Cadets band and staff, parents and attendees of the Avenue Nursery

The Carnival Dance was again staged at the Kings Hall with entertainment provided by Harbour Sounds where a relaxing evening topped another great day for Carnival in Herne Bay.

The 'Peter Pan Pirate' Miss Herne Bay float built with the added expertise of John Dilnot and Jim Birkett enjoyed quite a successful year as the Court and Float attended other Carnivals. The last Canterbury Carnival was the first attended and the Concorde D'Excellance for best in Carnival was won. The year continued on a similar vein with float firsts at Teynham, Ashford and Margate. Float seconds at Minster and Whitstable, whilst thirds was received at Ramsgate and Faversham as well as second for tableaux at Teynham.

Saturday 10 December saw the towns Wimereux Gardens host the Associations Winter Wonderland IV, which again provided the Association with an opportunity to allow other clubs, associations and organisations in the town to raise some extra funds for their causes. Unfortunately the event became a victim of the weather and drew to an early conclusion.

One of the biggest factors during the year was the Associations partnership with Bryant Homes South East who helped purchase a tow vehicle and replace all of the Associations official collecting buckets as well as help support the Associations first Nosh and Knowledge evening held in December and Winter Wonderland IV.

As usual the Carnival Court were excellent throughout the year and they and their families should be proud of their achievements as they represented the Carnival Association and their town exceptionally well. The 2007 Court attended many other varied functions as well as East Kent Carnivals, including interviews at Radio Cabin; a cheerleading experience; attendance at fetes at Briary and Hampton Schools, Queen Victoria Hospital and Elliott House; attendance at the towns Classic Car and Bike Rally and Military Day; Herne Bay Bus Rally; Two continental and an Italian market; fun days at Hampton with the Herne Bay and Whitstable Lions and at the Cherry Orchard in Herne; the Christmas Lights switch on, the Remembrance Sunday service in Herne as well as the most intriguing of events in the Opening of the William Street pavement extension. As usual though the highlight of year is Herne Bay Carnival as there is no other town in East Kent quite like it come Carnival Day.

The Carnival year was certainly one for reflection and no mores so than when the Association heard of the sudden passing in January 2008 of local Carnival supporter, Ricardo Macari whose family have advertised in the Associations Annual Carnival Programme for many years.

Friday 26 January 2008 saw the now titled Carnival Review and Donations Evening held for the first time at the headquarters of Herne Bay Operatics, where the 2007 DVD was premiered successfully. 2007 Spirit of Carnival winner, Terry Spillane had once again collated an excellent review of Herne Bay Carnival.

2008

Easter Saturday, 22 March will see the selection of Miss Herne Bay 2008 and her Princesses.

To be continued.....