

Penarth Carnival Weekender

Penarth Festival and its Carnival Day has been an annual fixture in the town for over 50 years.

This year, and having listened to the community, Penarth Town Council was keen to spread our events and try new things – in our efforts to improve life in the town.

We wanted to provide more exciting, accessible opportunities for the people of Penarth to take part in and provide more opportunities for people to visit.

Celebrations began on Saturday 8th July with the Downhill Derby, a downhill homemade go-kart race. Previously an element of Carnival Day, this quirky event became a standalone day in its own right, attracting a record number of participants and spectators, alongside national news coverage.

The Carnival weekender on 14th and 15th July spread activities across two days. Friday night's fun showcased live music on the seafront, presented by BBC fixture Bethan Elfyn and headlined by The Voice stars, Into The Ark, followed by a spectacular fireworks display launched from Penarth's Pier.

Saturday began with an RAF Falcons display, followed by a carnival along the seafront, with additional standalone children's festival. The centrepiece was undoubtedly a spectacular circus show, with a huge trapeze rigged at the end of the Pier and the world's first high wire walk over 200m of water to the Pier.

Thousands attended the Downhill Derby and over five thousand visited the two days of our Carnival Weekender.

Sights such as excited faces hurtling downhill to huge cheers, mass dancing on the seafront with a spectacular backdrop of fireworks and hundreds of engaged children at the Kymin will live long in the memory. Not to mention the buzz at the incredible circus display on the Pier and the astonishing sight of the world's first high wire walk over 200m of water to a Pier.

Town Mayor, Cllr Ken Lloyd said "Huge thanks to all our partners who helped make this year's Festival so special. We wanted to try new ideas and create more events for the town. Between the Downhill Derby and the two days of the Carnival Weekender, we've seen some spectacular sights, and a lot of fun has been had. Most of all, thanks to the people of Penarth for getting involved – whether organising or simply having a good time – These are the people who make this a special place to live."