

Community

Beeston's big Carnival day!

CARNIVAL day finally dawned and Beeston got to go a little crazy!

Stallholders arriving to set up for the event on Broadgate Park from mid-morning on Saturday, July 10, were buzzing with anticipation – it could be felt all around in the atmosphere. The sun was shining, there was a bit of a warm wind to protect against total meltdown on what had been forecast to be a very hot day, and people were in a jolly mood as they pitched gazebos and laid out their wares – even the group finding the marquee winning in the battle of the tent poles remained in good spirits, and they

did *eventually* manage to suss out the pole:pole ratio.

Live music and dancing started the day's events in Beeston Square, with acts that had taken part in 'Beeston's Got Talent' earlier in the year, choirs from local schools, singers and dancers, including the Maids of Clifton Clog Dancers.

This year's Carnival Prince and Princess, Joe and Lydia, were crowned in Beeston Square at 12.30pm with the Carnival sponsors playing their part in the ceremony.

Then it was everyone down to the Town Hall on Foster Avenue, where the big parade was due to start at 1pm. Here, though, there was a temporary glitch as the

Beeston Pipe Band, due to lead the parade, had been delayed in traffic as they travelled from an earlier engagement.

They had sent a message to say how late they anticipated being – and the townsfolk settled down to wait, a subdued hush falling over the crowds lining Foster Avenue waiting for the parade to start – remember that this is Beeston's busiest shopping day, and the sound of silence is not often heard on a Saturday lunchtime.

However, the pipe band was soon with us and the parade was on its way! Lots of community groups and organisations fell into line after the pipers, and the parade got on its way, making merry music and

leading the marching, dancing and cavorting through Beeston Square and along the High Road.

And what was at the back of the parade? Well, a team of firefighters pulling a fire engine for a Fire Engine Charity Pull, of course. What else would you expect to bring up the rear of a parade along a pedestrianised high street? Don't ask why they didn't just turn the ignition key...

The parade turned onto Broadgate Park and the afternoon's activities began in earnest, with more singing, dancing, stalls, exhibitions and displays and plenty of refreshments. Awards were made – including the rather late announcement of the winner of

the Beeston Fairtrade 'design a window sticker' competition for schoolchildren before Easter. The winning design was announced and prizes presented – Easter eggs and Easter bunnies! Just the thing for a mid-summer's day. The Fairtrade Beeston group apologise to all winners, runners up and parents who had waited patiently for the results to be released.